

New Ryde Civic, Cultural & Community Hub Wins the Heart of the Community

Published on 26 September 2019



New concept image of The New Heart of Ryde

Council has endorsed progressing with its plans for a new cultural and community hub, following the release of a report which identified 85% community support for [The New Heart of Ryde](#) proposal.

The report also identified several key themes for Council to consider when undertaking the detailed design for the project, including availability of parking, traffic management, and the inclusion of green space and a hall or performance space.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said, “The results from The New Heart of Ryde consultation are in, and they show an overwhelming 85% approval rating for Council’s proposal.

“For the first time we are really giving the community what they want.”

“Our community has told us over and over again that more space is needed in our City for performances, meetings and cultural activities. I am so proud to say that this project will deliver a four-fold increase in community space, for our growing City”, Clr Laxale said.

In response to community feedback [new concepts](#) have also been released for the site.

Under the plan, Council will retain ownership of the site, will prohibit residential development on the site, and has committed to not increasing rates or reducing services for this project.

Council will now go out to market with the proposal, with a view to report back to Council on The New Heart of Ryde in March 2020.

Get Prepared Emergency Prep Competition

Published on 23 September 2019



To ensure our community is prepared in the event of an emergency situation, and to highlight Emergency Preparedness Week, the City of Ryde is excited to be offering this amazing prize pack to get you thinking about how you'd prepare for a future emergency situation.

Head to our [City of Ryde Facebook page](#) and tell us in 25 words or less "how you would get prepared for an emergency situation, taking into account tips from the Climate Wise Communities website (<https://climatewisecommunitiesryde.com.au/>) for a chance to WIN a fantastic emergency prep prize pack valued at \$135.

The winning entry will receive a prize pack which includes:

- 1 x Trafalgar Family First Aid Kit
- 1 x Sony Portable Am/FM Radio
- 1 x Dolphin Torch
- 2 x Dolphin Torch Batteries
- 1 x Eveready AA Batteries (10 Pack)

IMPORTANT: Should you not have a Facebook account, you can enter by sending your answer to the question above via [email](#).

The competition closes at 11.59pm AEDT on Sunday 29 September 2019. [Terms and conditions](#) apply.

Discover City of Ryde's history and heritage on foot

Published on 23 September 2019



St Anne's Church and Cemetary

Step into the sunshine this Spring and rediscover Ryde and Gladesville through their past with the City of Ryde's [Heritage Trail Booklets](#). These free downloadable guides will take you on walking tours to significant local historical sites, and offer glimpses into the little-known stories of communities and individuals who once built their lives in our neighbourhoods.

One of the highlights in the Ryde trail guide is [St Anne's Church](#) and Cemetary, a 5-minute walk from Top Ryde City. The site is associated with the establishment of the original township we now know as Ryde, as well as the naming of the city. Of Victorian Free Gothic aesthetic, the church has since transformed from its initial establishment as a chapel/ schoolhouse into an important landmark. Don't forget to bring a copy of the booklet so that you can compare photographs of the original structure with its current splendour.



Step away from our busy streets and explore the Wulaba Track, which runs alongside Parramatta River. The refurbished walkway will lead you through magical places where evidence of its original inhabitants, the Wallumdegal people, has been preserved. There you can find Aboriginal rock carvings and middens, which are shell mounds formed after consuming shellfish for centuries.

Aside from important heritage sites, the guides will also take you past memorials and places of interest. You can also admire the architecture of old and restored homes that still speak of their rich heritage.

The booklets map out suggested routes but you're welcome to make your own path and enjoy the walk at your own leisure.

To download the guide, visit our [Heritage Trail Booklets webpage](#).

Have Your Say on New Heritage Reforms

Published on 20 September 2019

The City of Ryde is encouraging the entire community to have its say on new reforms designed to provide appropriate protections for local heritage items.

The reforms being proposed by Council are in direct response to concerns raised by the community - detailed in the City of Ryde Community Strategic Plan - for more to be done to protect the City of Ryde's heritage and character.

They are also designed to deliver greater certainty to property owners and prospective buyers.

Under the reforms, 44 new heritage items will be created in the City of Ryde. Six new heritage conservation areas will also be created, while the former Squire's Brewery and Halvorsen's Boat Yard in Putney and the Glades Bay Baths in Gladesville will be listed as archaeological sites.

The City of Ryde has sent letters to all owners of the proposed heritage items detailing what the reforms will mean for them and how to take part in the community consultation Council is currently undertaking.

Owners of properties in the vicinity of proposed heritage items have also been sent letters. The only affect this has on properties in the vicinity of heritage items are those that lodge a development application, as they may need to lodge a Heritage Impact Statement as part of the application process.

"Heritage items give us continuity of our community. They contribute to our sense of place and identity, and enhance the character and vibrancy of our City," City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said.

"Recently we have seen a number of properties considered as heritage items destroyed in the name of development. These have been lost to Ryde forever.

"Given the importance of the reforms, I encourage those who own a heritage item, live in the vicinity of one or simply care about Ryde's history and unique character to take part in the community consultation that is underway by making a submission."

Written submissions can be made:

- Online: <http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/heritage>
- Email: cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au
- Post: General Manager, City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670

Winners of 2019 SWAP awards revealed

Published on 19 September 2019



Tyler Old with her SWAP entry 'Priscilla the Peacock' which was awarded the Youth Environment Prize

A piece of art that depicts the environmental damage to the Menindee Lakes has taken out the major award at the City of Ryde's Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP).

SWAP is a unique competition in which artists who live, study, work or visit the City of Ryde produce artworks that are made from repurposed waste material. This year's competition attracted more than 150 entries which transformed waste into a range of objects including insects, animals, landscapes, portraits and clothing.

'Menindee Ghost Ship' by Danja Derkenne was awarded first prize in the open category. Ms Derkenne's work was made from industrial waste collected from the ground in the Menindee Lakes in western NSW and depicts how human intervention has impacted on the lakes.

"'Menindee Ghost Ship' not only reminds us of how we have destroyed an entire river system, but the fact that this sculpture is made from metal rubbish strewn everywhere along the banks of the Darling River also reminds us that the destruction is wilful and ongoing," Ms Derkenne said.

Tyler Old took out the Youth Environment Prize (for 14 to 17 year olds) for 'Priscilla the Peacock', in which she used single-use plastics and other household waste items to create an eye-catching piece of work.

Students from St Lucy's School Visual Arts Department, meanwhile, were awarded the Junior Youth Environment Prize (10 to 13 year olds) for 'Not Just A Pretty Face'. The work explores the concept of individuality with selected repurposed materials from the school's storeroom.

The Functional award - for the design object judged to have best used reclaimed material to form a functional piece - was taken out by Julie Scully and her repurposed mannequin entitled 'Burlesque'.

The winning artworks as well as the 75 other finalists form this year's SWAP Exhibition at Meadowbank's See Street Gallery, which will run until Thursday 3 October. The exhibition is open Tuesday to Saturday between 11am and 4pm with free entry for all members of the public.

Those who attend this year's exhibition can vote for their favourite work in the exhibit with the work receiving the most votes to be awarded the People's Choice Award at the conclusion of the exhibition.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, encouraged everyone to visit the SWAP exhibition and see the amazing artworks on display.

"SWAP is a unique event and one our community should be proud of. Not only does it showcase the incredible talent of our local community, but it teaches us about waste and how we can re-use resources to stop them ending up in landfill," Cllr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde would like to acknowledge all the people who made this year's SWAP competition and exhibition possible including Meadowbank TAFE, curator Ben Eadie, Council staff and the expert judging panel which was made up by the founder of environmental charities Boomerang Alliance and CitizenBlue Dave West, waste to art practitioner Marina Debris and Artbank Chief Curator Oliver Watts.

Council launches new Building and Development Advisory Service

Published on 19 September 2019

The City of Ryde will launch a new advisory service to assist local residents and landowners with building certification and compliance matters.

Commencing on 3 October 2019, the new Building and Development Advisory Service will provide a free 30 minute appointment with a City of Ryde Building Certification and Compliance Officer every Thursday between 9am and 1pm at the Ryde Customer Service Centre, located within the Top Ryde City Shopping Centre.

The service will be able to assist with inquiries about:

- Building Information Certificates, Construction Certificates, Occupation Certificates, Complying Development Certificates
- Unauthorised and non-compliant works, complaints and enforcement action
- Building classification, building regulations and fire safety requirements
- Hoardings
- Swimming Pools Act and compliance requirements

[Click here](#) to book an appointment with Council's Building and Development and Advisory Service.

Council's decision to launch the new service follows an increase in the number of building certification and compliance inquiries as well as instances of unauthorised building activities. This is primarily due to private certifiers, building contractors and landowners not following due process and not being accountable for the construction and complying development certificates that have been issued.

Residents and landowners should be advised that more complex matters relating to unauthorised works and the lodgement of applications and certificates to legitimise such works may require a more formalised meeting with the City of Ryde's [Unauthorised Works Advisory Panel](#) (UWAP). This is an existing service that was established in September 2018 to bring together Council staff and customers to provide timely consistent, lawful, clear directions and advice about building works.

The UWAP is also a free service and meetings are held on Thursdays between 1.30pm and 4.30pm (alternative times can be arranged). These meetings run from 30 minutes to one hour depending on the complexity of the case and can be arranged by contacting Council's Customer Service Centre.

Something for everyone at this year's Granny Smith Festival

Published on 16 September 2019

One of Sydney's most popular street festivals is back, with the Granny Smith Festival to take place in Eastwood on Saturday, 19 October.

This year's festival promises to be the biggest yet with a great line-up of entertainment, delicious food and fun activities for all ages expected to attract more than 90,000 visitors.

The Granny Smith Festival celebrates the life of Maria Ann Smith, who grew the first Granny Smith apple on her Eastwood property in 1868, while also highlighting the City of Ryde's vibrant and diverse community.

Just some of the attractions at this year's Granny Smith Festival include:

- **Grand Street Parade.** Witness the streets of Eastwood being transformed into a sea of colour and sound with this 2000-strong community parade.
- **The return of Granny's Cider Bar.** Sponsored by Bilpin Cider Co, Granny's Cider Bar provides festivalgoers with the chance to chill out, listen to some quality music and sample some of the tastiest Australian ciders on offer.
- **West Parade entertainment.** There will be plenty of fun activities alongside Granny's Cider Bar including Mini Putt-Putt and a DJ Boombox Truck belting out popular tunes.
- **A huge finale concert.** Kicking off at 6pm, this year's concert will feature Baker Boys Band and Excité Live Stunt Show before a spectacular fireworks display.
- **Kids activities.** No matter the age, all kids will be entertained with performances from PJ Masks as well as stacks of activities taking place at the Youth Zone and Creative Kids Hub.

In addition, there will be close to 250 stalls offering a variety of gifts and products as well as five stages featuring dance and music performances from a wide variety of community groups and local performers.

There will also be the chance to win a fantastic prize thanks to Granny Smith Festival Platinum sponsors, RMA Eastwood. Simply post a favourite photo from the event onto Instagram with the hashtag #grannysmithfestival to go into the running to win a Granny Snap Pack with all the best mobile photography essentials worth more than \$1,000.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the Granny Smith Festival celebrates everything that is great about Eastwood and the City of Ryde.

“The Granny Smith Festival continues to evolve every year and with the entertainment planned for this year’s event it will be one of Sydney’s major community festivals that truly appeals to all ages,” Clr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde would like to thank all sponsors of this year’s Granny Smith Festival. They are:

Platinum: RMA Eastwood

Apple: Woolworths

Gold: The Epoch Times | Northern District Times

Silver: Chinese Newspaper Group | The Vision China Times | TVB Anywhere | Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club | Link Housing | Bilpin Cider Co | Channel 9 | ABC Local Radio

Bronze: Macquarie Community College | Relationships Australia NSW | Ayam | Bupa | Indomedia | Humans Of Eastwood | Helloworld Top Ryde | Eastwood Dental Clinic | Medibank

For more information about the this year's event, visit the [Granny Smith Festival page](#).

New information on 5G safety

Published on 16 September 2019

The Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) has provided new information to the community about current and future generations of mobile telecommunication.

The information follows heightened community concern within the City of Ryde about the deployment of small cells and 5G infrastructure across local neighbourhoods.

Contained in the information is an outline of what 5G is and also includes a series of responses to common question regarding the safety of the infrastructure. Links to other relevant authorities and industry bodies have also been provided.

All the information can be found at <https://amta.org.au/what-is-5g/>.

The ATMA is the representative body for Australia's mobile telecommunication industry.

Reforms to protect Ryde's heritage now on public exhibition

Published on 12 September 2019



Community consultation has now commenced on wide-ranging planning reforms designed to provide stronger protections for items and areas of heritage significance across the City of Ryde.

The reforms are proposed by Council in direct response to concerns raised by the community and detailed in the Community Strategic Plan for more to be done to protect the City of Ryde's heritage and character.

In addition, the proposed controls are designed to provide greater certainty to property owners and prospective buyers.

Under the reforms, 44 new heritage items will be created in the City of Ryde. This includes;

- Thirty properties including comprising Federation cottages, Inter-war bungalows and Victorian Georgian villas
- Seven public parks and a reservoir
- Three street tree boulevards
- Two shops
- One licensed hotel
- One public school

Six new heritage conservation areas will also be created, while the former Squire's Brewery and Halvorsen's Boat Yard in Putney and the Glades Bay Baths in Gladesville will also be listed as archaeological sites.

The reforms are based on the findings of a comprehensive heritage review commissioned by the City of Ryde.

Heritage items are provided with protections guarding them from inappropriate development as new works are required to be sympathetic to the character and style of the heritage item and/or the heritage conservation area.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, encouraged all residents to take part in the community consultation.

"Heritage items, whether they are homes, shops, schools, parks or even entire streets, enrich our City and contribute to the community's sense of place," Cllr Laxale said.

"We know through our engagement with the community that heritage is of vital importance to the majority of residents many of whom have expressed concerns about the recent increase in development proposals that involved the demolition of buildings with heritage value.

"Conversely, there have also been concerns raised that property owners have no certainty under current planning controls.

"The proposed planning reforms address these concerns and that is why it is so important that everyone takes part in the consultation that has just commenced."

Written submissions can be made:

- Online: <http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay/heritage>
- Email: cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au
- Post: General Manager, City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670

The community consultation will take place until 25 October.

For the past seven years, the City of Ryde has supported heritage property owners through an assistance fund to carry out conservation works and maintenance.

Corresponding with the reforms, Council has resolved to allocate an additional \$500,000 to its Local Heritage Assistance Fund and increase the size of individual grants available from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

The Local Heritage Assistance Fund was established by the City of Ryde to help with the cost associated with repairing and conserving privately-owned heritage-listed items.

Clr Jerome Laxale re-elected as City of Ryde Mayor

Published on 10 September 2019



City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, (left) and City of Ryde Deputy Mayor Clr Simon Zhou

Clr Jerome Laxale has been re-elected as City of Ryde Mayor at an Extraordinary Council Meeting tonight.

Clr Laxale – a Labor member from the West Ward – was re-elected Mayor for a one-year term.

It will be Clr Laxale’s third term as City of Ryde Mayor having previously served in the role between 2015 and 2016 as well as between 2017 and 2019.

Clr Laxale said he was honoured to continue as City of Ryde Mayor.

“It is a tremendous privilege to be given the opportunity once again to serve the community as Mayor and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their continued support,” Clr Laxale said.

“While this Council has achieved a lot in the past two years we acknowledge that there is still a great deal more to do to ensure that we continue to deliver for the community.

“We have a very important year ahead in which we will hopefully finalise plans for the Ryde Civic Centre site, address the chronic parking issues in Eastwood and continue to put a focus on improving our local environment.”

Clr Shuo (Simon) Zhou was re-elected as City of Ryde Deputy Mayor.

Clr Zhou – an independent from the West Ward – thanked his fellow councillors and the community for their continued support.

“The City of Ryde is a great mix of cultures, interests and diversity and as a member of this Council I hope we can continue to introduce positive changes over the next 12 months that will benefit everyone,” Clr Zhou said.

City of Ryde Council meeting summary - August meeting

Published on 05 September 2019

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 27 August 2019. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

CITY OF RYDE FIRST TO COMMIT TO ZERO LITTER TO RIVER TARGET

The City of Ryde has become the first Council in Australia to adopt a 'Zero Litter to River' target by 2030.

The target was endorsed by Council at its meeting on Tuesday evening and will result in the implementation of a range of initiatives that will reduce litter and the flow of pollution into local waterways.

The adoption of the target means that by 2030, Council will implement initiatives to strive for zero discharge of gross pollutants into any waterway in the City of Ryde during a rainfall event.

[Click here for more information.](#)

NEW WILDLIFE PROTECTION AREAS TO PROTECT NATIVE ANIMALS

Three bushland corridors in the City of Ryde have been declared as [Wildlife Protection Areas](#). Classified under the Companion Animals Act 1998, Wildlife Protection Areas are public places set aside for the protection of native wildlife.

[Field of Mars Reserve](#) has been declared as a Category 1 Wildlife Protection Area, meaning dogs and cats are prohibited from the area. Meanwhile Kittys Creek Corridor and Terrys Creek Corridor have been declared as Category 2 Wildlife Protection Areas, prohibiting cats but permitting dogs that are on a leash.

The endorsement by the City of Ryde follows community consultation which found that there was overwhelming support for the declaration of Wildlife Protection Areas at all three locations.

SCIENCE KITS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AT ALL CITY OF RYDE LIBRARIES

A City of Ryde Library Service program that loans out [science kits](#) to young members will be expanded.

The science kits have been available for loan at Ryde and West Ryde libraries and were borrowed 934 times over the past 12 months. Due to this success, the science kits will be able to be loaned at all City of Ryde libraries by December this year.

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING NEAR MEADOWBANK SKATE PARK

A raised pedestrian crossing will be built on Constitution Road West, opposite the [Meadowbank Skate Park](#).

The pedestrian crossing was approved by Council after pedestrian and vehicle counts taken following the opening of the skate park exceeded levels stipulated by RMS guidelines.

The Meadowbank Skate Park opened in April and due to its popularity has seen a significant increase in the number of pedestrians and vehicles in the area.

PLAQUES TO REMEMBER TWO LOCAL RESIDENTS

Two new plaques will be installed to commemorate local residents who recently passed away.

One plaque will be installed on a bench at [Santa Rosa Park](#), Ryde, in memory of Rhonda 'Ronnie' Clapham who passed away in April after a long illness. Ms Clapham was a regular visitor to Santa Rosa Park over a number of years.

Another plaque will be installed at [Granny Smith Memorial Park](#), Eastwood, in memory of Lauren Hew who passed away in July after contracting a rare form of cancer called Ewing's sarcoma.

MEETING SOUGHT TO ADDRESS WEST RYDE PARKING ISSUES

The City of Ryde will request a meeting with Coles and Wilsons Parking to discuss ways to better utilise the lower level of underground parking in the Coles building at West Ryde.

As part of these discussions, Council will seek approval from Coles and Wilsons Parking to allow for medium to long-term parking to be made available for local workers in the lower level of the car park.

IMPROVEMENTS TO ELS HALL PARK OFF-LEASH AREA

A range of improvements will be made to the [ELS Hall Park](#) off-leash area. These include gate repairs, the planting of additional trees and the installation of new signs. Two disability parking spaces will also be installed near the off-leash area.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND COMPANION ANIMALS ACT

The City of Ryde will write to Local Government Minister, the Hon. Shelley Hancock, proposing a change to the Companion Animals Act 1998. Under the proposed change, a dog owner would not be guilty of an offence under the Act if a dog harasses a person or animal while behind a physical barrier.

COUNCIL TO SEEK FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

The City of Ryde will lodge an expression of interest to apply for a grant under the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program. The program seeks to support community organisations to address local environmental priorities.

NEW SIGN FOR RYDE SECONDARY COLLEGE

A directional sign will be installed at the corner of Buffalo Road and Malvina Street, Ryde, to assist residents and visitors locate Ryde Secondary College.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 September 2019.

[Click here for the minutes from the August Ordinary meeting.](#)

2019 SWAP finalists announced

Published on 04 September 2019



The opening night of the 2018 SWAP exhibition

The City of Ryde has announced the finalists of the Sustainable Waste to Art Prize (SWAP), with 78 entries in the running to win one of the five awards on offer.

[SWAP](#) is the City of Ryde's unique competition in which budding local artists are asked to produce works with a sustainable theme that are made from repurposed material.

The 78 finalists were selected from more than 150 entries and will now form the artworks featured in the upcoming SWAP exhibition at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank.

Featured among the finalists are works in which waste has been transformed into insects and animals, landscapes and portraits, fabulous fashion and much more.

The SWAP award winners will be announced at the opening night of the exhibition on Wednesday, 18 September.

All members of the public are invited to attend the opening, but are asked to RSVP.

The SWAP exhibition will be open to the public between Tuesday and Saturday at 11am - 4pm, up until Thursday, 3 October.

For the full list of finalists, [click here](#).