

# A snapshot of Ryde

## The City of Ryde...

A diverse collection of natural landscapes, beautiful parks, scenic waterways and areas of historical significance make up the picture of Ryde today, with its mix of residential living and successful business, retail and educational centres.

The City of Ryde Local Government Area (LGA) encompasses the suburbs of Chatswood West, Denistone, Denistone East, Denistone West, East Ryde, Eastwood, Gladesville, Macquarie Park, Marsfield, Meadowbank, Melrose Park, North Ryde, Putney, Ryde, Tennyson Point and West Ryde.

## Location

The City of Ryde is situated 12 kilometres west of central Sydney, set in scenic surrounds between the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers.

It is serviced by the Northern rail link, as well as a number of main roads including Victoria Road, Church Street, Devlin Street, Lane Cove Road, Blaxland Road, Epping Road and the M2 Motorway. Three new rail stations on the Chatswood to Epping rail line will open in 2008.

## The People

The City of Ryde has an estimated population of 96,948 residents (2006 Census). Adults in their prime working age, from 25-54 years, make up the majority (45%) of the population. There has been an increase in the number of residents aged 55 years and older since the 2001 Census.

The City of Ryde is a culturally diverse community with some 37.6% of residents born overseas and 42% speaking another language. The most commonly spoken language in 2006 was Cantonese followed by Mandarin, Italian, Korean and Armenian.

## Open Space

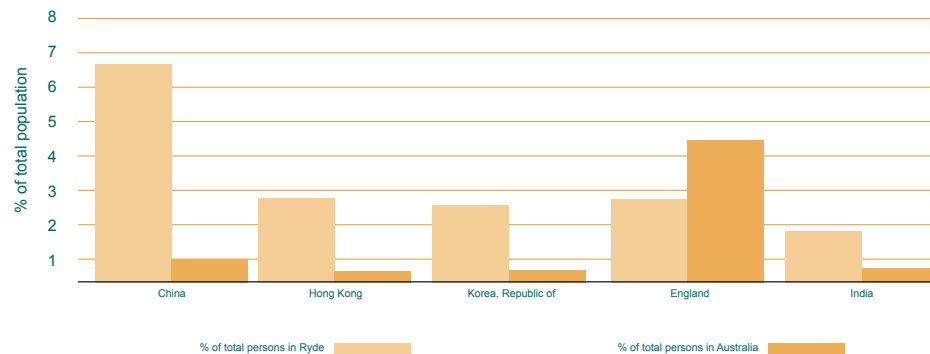
There are 265 hectares of local open space in Ryde, with many walking and cycling tracks, particularly along the foreshores of the Parramatta River; and with over 207 other reserves there is plenty of opportunity to participate in outdoor activities.



## Transport

The key transport and land use development corridors within Ryde are identified as Macquarie Park (Epping Road, M2, Epping to Chatswood rail link), the Northern Line rail corridor, and Victoria Road. Public transport connections include State Transit bus services connecting the town centres, as well as railway stations at Meadowbank, Eastwood, Denistone, West Ryde and three new stations in Macquarie Park opening in 2008.

Percentage of People born Overseas, Ryde and Australia, 2006 Census



The Places

Whilst the area is primarily residential, comprising predominantly separate houses and a growing number of flats/units and townhouses, it contains a number of important employment, educational and special use establishments including Macquarie Park, Macquarie University, Ryde and Meadowbank Colleges of TAFE, the CSIRO, Ryde and Macquarie Hospitals, the Children's Cochlear Implant Centre and the New South Wales Corrective Services Academy.

Proportion of people born overseas as a percentage of the total population

PROJECTED POPULATION (*)	
2014	104,026
2024	107,278
2031	111,886
PROJECTED HOUSEHOLDS (*)	
2014	41,610
2024	42,911
2031	44,754
HISTORICAL POPULATION (*)	
1991	90,197
1996	92,675
2001	95,744

(\*) Source: NSROC Northern Sydney Sub-regional Planning Strategy  
This information is used for Council's strategic planning.

Some interesting facts about Ryde Local Government Area

Area	40.6 sq km
Perimeter	39.3 km
Length of road network	389 km
Population density	2388 people per sq km
Males	46,778 (48.3%)
Females	50,170 (51.7%)
Ryde's Indigenous population	267 (0.3%)
Median age	37 years (Australia: 37 years)
Total families	24,983
Median weekly individual income	\$528 (Australia \$466)
Median weekly family income	\$1,486 (Australia \$1,171)
Average household size	2.5

# The Opportunities

## Leisure Pursuits

The "Granny Smith Festival", held in the spring, heads a busy calendar of art shows, community and sporting events and festivals throughout the year, ensuring that visitors to the area are entertained in style.

Ryde has many dining, shopping and entertainment precincts including North Ryde, West Ryde, Eastwood, Gladesville, Putney, Ryde, Macquarie Park and Meadowbank.

The largest shopping centre is Macquarie Centre located in Macquarie Park and there are excellent retail centres at Gladesville, Ryde, West Ryde and Eastwood.

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, constructed as a venue for the Olympic water polo events and a training facility for the Paralympic Games, is a world class swimming and sporting facility enjoyed by families and sporting enthusiasts alike. Ryde caters for many sporting interests including golf, soccer, cricket, tennis, squash, fitness, walking and swimming.

Lane Cove National Park is one of Sydney's favourite places for picnics, barbecues or bushwalks.

The City itself has 207 parks and is strongly supported by a Sports Council.

The City of Ryde also operates five public libraries, including a home library lending service.

## Economic Development

The City of Ryde is part of an ever changing, dynamic global market place. Ryde's support for economic development contributes significantly to the State's "Global Economic Corridor" which is identified in the NSW Metropolitan Strategy.

The Macquarie Park specialised centre is the most important employment area within the city, providing around 32,200 jobs, and is now the second largest business district in New South Wales in terms of employment floor space with over 1,000,000m<sup>2</sup>. When fully developed Macquarie Park could provide a potential 55,300 jobs by the year 2031 and close to 3,000,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial floor space.

The arrival of the new rail infrastructure in 2008 in Macquarie Park and introduction of a metropolitan wide parking policy will encourage greater use of public transport in the future. The upgrade of Macquarie University and its link to industry will further contribute to economic development.



# Partnerships

## Eden Gardens

In 2006/2007 Council formally resolved to enter into partnership activities with Eden Gardens and Garden Centre, Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park. The purpose of this partnership is to promote common values of environmental awareness, education, active volunteering and local economic development.

The partnership was initiated on 3 April 2007 with a Committee of the Whole meeting of Council being held at Eden Gardens. There was significant interest in this meeting amongst local residents and businesses in the Macquarie Park area.

Since this time, facilities at Eden Gardens have been made available for City of Ryde staff to run environmental awareness seminars and educational events for local residents. This included a series of workshops to celebrate World Environment Day in June 2007.



## Public-Private Partnership (PPP) – City of Ryde and Bevillesta Pty Ltd

In terms of the PPP Guidelines issued as part of the Local Government Amendment (Public Private Partnerships) Act 2004 the Department of Local Government has determined that the Integrated Traffic Solution for the redevelopment of the Top Ryde Shopping Centre by Bevillesta Pty Ltd, meets the definition of a Public-Private Partnership under S400B of the Local Government Act 1993.

The Integrated Traffic Solution relates to the sale of stratum space in the forecourt area of the Ryde Civic Centre and adjacent to Devlin Street to Bevillesta Pty Ltd for the provision of vehicular access ramps into the proposed Top Ryde Shopping Centre redevelopment site. In addition to the sale, Council, as the road authority, has entered into leases with Bevillesta Pty Ltd for the provision of additional ramps below Devlin Street for connection to the Shopping Centre site as well as for future access to the Civic Centre site, and two pedestrian bridges across Devlin Street. The Department concluded that the project does not represent a high risk to Council and there is no requirement to submit the project processes for review by the Local Government Project Review Committee. However the Department reminded Council that processes outlined in the guidelines must be followed even though the project has been assessed as non-reviewable. In addition the Department requires that it be notified if the risk profile of the project changes over time. Council has constituted a project management framework to manage the project.

Regular Project Control Group meetings with representatives from Council, Bevillesta and an independent non-representative member are being held. Council has provided update reports to the Department of Local Government, outlining the processes followed since the project inception. The project is also subject to a Probity Plan prepared by independent legal advisors. The value of public benefits arising from this partnership is \$103 million.

## West Ryde Precinct

As part of the renewal of the West Ryde Town Centre a Development Application for a village square, a mixed-use retail/commercial/residential development, and a purpose built community centre has been finalised and submitted by the developer, Remo Properties, for consideration.

This project has benefited enormously from the keen input of many local residents and business owners. To address concerns raised via community consultation, Remo Properties has employed specialist consultants to review certain aspects of the project prior to submission of the Development Application in July 2007.

# Your Council

## Governance and Accountability

The City of Ryde is divided into three wards with four Councillors elected to represent each ward (West, Central and East). Councillors are elected by the community for a 4 year term following an election. The Mayor is elected annually by the Councillors. Together, the Councillors are the governing body of the City of Ryde Council, a public statutory body constituted under the Local Government Act 1993. Council is responsible for setting the organisation's direction, and ensuring that it performs effectively on behalf of the City of Ryde residents.

## Council Meetings

Regular Council and Committee meetings are held every Tuesday at the Ryde Civic Centre. Meetings are open to the public and residents and businesses are actively encouraged to attend and participate in the decision-making process. Council's meeting schedule, agendas and minutes are available on the City of Ryde website ([www.ryde.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au)).

### Council Meeting Attendance

#### July 2006 - June 2007

A total of 22 Ordinary and 19 Committee of the Whole meetings were held during the period July 2006 to June 2007. The attendance record of Councillors is set out in the table below:

Name	Ordinary (22)	Committee of the Whole (19)	Total (41)
Clr Petch (Mayor)	22	17	39
Clr O'Donnell (Deputy Mayor)	21	18	39
Clr Butterworth	19	17	36
Clr Campbell	15*	13*	28
Clr McCosker	15	15	30
Clr Melhem	17	18	35
Clr Netterfield	21	18	39
Clr Perram	21	18	39
Clr Ryan	20	13	33
Clr Tagg	22	18	40
Clr Wilde OAM	21**	18**	39
Clr Yedelian	20	17	37

\* Clr Campbell had approved leave of absence for 6 council meetings and 4 Committee of the Whole meetings.

\*\* Clr Wilde OAM had approved leave of absence for 1 Council meeting and 1 Committee of the Whole meeting.

## Council Decisions

Council is recognised as a single entity and Councillors only have the authority to make decisions as a group, when they are acting as 'Council'. At Committee Meetings, reports from Council Officers are submitted, with a recommendation, for the consideration of the Committee Members. Depending on the nature of the issue, the Committee may have delegated authority (in accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993) to make resolutions which can be acted upon immediately. If the Committee does not have the appropriate delegated authority, the Committee usually makes a recommendation to be considered at a Council Meeting.

**Councillor  
Edna  
Wilde  
OAM**



Edna Wilde has been a Councillor since 1974. During her 33 years of continuous service she has seen the area grow from a quiet back-water into a thriving and lively City.

She is proud of her contribution to this transformation, and talks with great enthusiasm about a vast array of projects that have enhanced the area. These include everything from infrastructure projects and rezoning issues, to upgrading local shopping centres, beautification of parks, and the greening of the City.

One of Councillor Wilde's abiding interests is the provision of a footpath on at least one side of every road in the City. Over the years, good progress has been made in this area, but she suspects that it will be ongoing for some time before it can be achieved.

A former primary school teacher, she has a particular interest in encouraging local children. She is Deputy Chairman of the Ryde Sports Foundation, and runs the annual Ryde Eisteddfod, to foster excellence in sports and in the arts.

Councillor Wilde's vision for the City of Ryde in the future includes the redevelopment of Ryde Town Centre, including the current Civic Centre site, to provide a multipurpose centre with a focus on cultural activities. She also looks forward to the redevelopment of Council-owned land in West Ryde to provide better community facilities.

Councillor Wilde has held the position of Mayor three times, and in 2000 was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to local government and to the community of Ryde.

**Councillor  
Terry  
Perram**



Terry Perram has been serving the City of Ryde as a Councillor for 20 years, and in 2004/05 he held the position of Mayor.

He loves the City of Ryde with its unique identity, being situated between the natural boundaries of two rivers. He enjoys the convenience of its proximity to the city with good transport links, while maintaining enough distance to provide the benefit of living space, making it an ideal area for families. He also finds Ryde a safe and friendly community, with an interesting mix of people from various parts of the world.

Councillor Perram sees the role of Councillor as one of listening and responding to the concerns of residents and ratepayers. Whilst acknowledging that change is constant, he has endeavoured to minimise the impact of change on those aspects of the City of Ryde which have led people to choose to live here. To that end, he has a particular interest in protecting the City's parks and its residential areas from overdevelopment.

A keen supporter of Council's community advisory committees, Councillor Perram is a member of the Bicycle, Heritage and Bush-land Committees.

Councillor Perram's vision for the City of Ryde includes maintaining the City's safe and clean image, more local employment, less traffic, and the progressive improvement of local parks and shopping centres.

However, there are certain aspects of the City that he would like to see remain unchanged: he would like to preserve the level of tree cover, current levels of building density, and of course, the friendly local atmosphere!

## West Ward Councillors

**Councillor  
Terry  
Ryan**



From his home in Eastwood, Councillor Terry Ryan has a 130km view, from Mascot to the Blue Mountains and as far south as Bowral. He loves the location of the City of Ryde, which is "not in the city, and not out of the city".

Having lived and worked in the area all his life, Terry Ryan has an intimate connection with Eastwood, taking great pride in its history and traditions. Since his election to Council in 2004, he has endeavoured to promote and support the interests of his local area.

Councillor Ryan is particularly proud of his contribution to the restoration of the Eastwood War Memorial, which led to the formulation of a maintenance plan for all the war memorials in the City of Ryde, and he is delighted to see the historic Brush Farm House restored to its former glory.

He is also a champion of Eastwood Shopping Centre and looks forward to seeing the Eastwood town centre revitalised.

Looking to the future, Councillor Ryan would like to see the City of Ryde bringing together its two greatest assets: its people and its parks. He would like to see children encouraged to make use of all the City's parks, from the smallest to the largest, by providing equipment that will promote structured exercise and healthy competition. He believes that when children and their parents mingle in parks, lines of communication begin to open up which ultimately support strong communities.

He is also keen to see the Civic Centre site developed to provide a well designed and substantial asset for the City of Ryde, and to see the aims of the City's current Management Plan achieved without delays or deferrals.

**Councillor  
Michael  
Butterworth**



Councillor Michael Butterworth was elected to Council in 2004. He loves the central location of the City of Ryde and the diversity of the community.

During his time as a Councillor, he has worked hard to get approval for a number of projects that had been on the agenda for some time, including the restoration of Brush Farm House and the redevelopment of Top Ryde Shopping Centre.

He has particular interest in the City's financial performance, and in better and more efficient service delivery. A project that he is particularly proud of is the introduction of an enhanced waste delivery service.

Looking to the future, he would like to see the introduction of further efficiencies, both within the City of Ryde, and across local councils in NSW, including a standard template for planning controls across Local Government Areas.

# Central Ward Councillors

**Councillor Sarkis Yedelian**



Councillor Sarkis Yedelian was first elected to Council in March 2004, and was elected Deputy Mayor in September 2007.

Councillor Yedelian feels a strong connection with the City of Ryde, as his family, friends and community all live here. He comments that if you live in Ryde, you really don't need to go anywhere else, as the area has so much to offer. The green open spaces and the waterways that surround the area give him particular pleasure.

He also takes great pride in the strong multicultural identity of the area, and rarely misses a citizenship ceremony, where he often reads out the names of Ryde's newest citizens.

During his time on Council, he feels his greatest contribution has been his involvement with the Top Ryde Shopping Centre planning process. He is delighted that work on this project is now underway, and is looking forward to seeing it brought to completion in two years' time.

Looking to the future, Councillor Yedelian is keen to see a greater emphasis on sustainable transport in the City of Ryde. His vision is a system of transport that will encourage people to leave the car at home, especially for local business and errands, and will also cater for our ageing population.

**Councillor Connie Netterfield**



Councillor Connie Netterfield was first elected to Council in 1999. She has very much enjoyed her service to the City of Ryde, receiving much positive feedback and encouragement from the community, and constantly learning new things.

She loves the multicultural mix of the community here, where people from over 30 different cultural backgrounds live together in harmony.

The Disability Discrimination Act emphasises the need for better access through the provision of new kerb ramps and improved footpaths, and Councillor Netterfield has a keen interest in this issue. She is Chairperson of the Access Committee, and finds it gratifying that achieving small adjustments, such as the installation of kerb ramps and footpaths, can result in vastly improved access for everyone from mothers with strollers to senior citizens who use mobility scooters.

Councillor Netterfield looks forward to seeing a number of new developments in the City of Ryde brought to fruition. She believes the achievement of these developments will make the City a better place to live.

An enthusiastic supporter of the arts, she would also like to see a cultural centre for the City of Ryde, to provide space and support for music, theatre and the visual arts.

**Councillor Meha Melhem**



There are many things about the City of Ryde that inspire Meha Melhem. In particular she loves Ryde's beautiful natural areas, and the rich diversity of the community. She thinks that Ryde is truly fortunate to have a population with such varying cultural and language backgrounds, as well as from all age groups, and considers fostering this diversity to be an important part of Council's work.

Councillor Melhem has had two particular areas of interest: the community and the environment, and it is in these two areas that she feels she has made her greatest contribution during her service as a Councillor.

She has worked to encourage consultation with community groups and individuals, and to facilitate their meaningful participation in decision making. She has also encouraged consideration of social justice and equity principles in decision making, and has advocated affordable, high quality, community based childcare.

Her interest in the environment has seen her focus on protection of the environment, sustainable and appropriate development, and air quality issues.

Councillor Melhem's vision for the future of the City of Ryde encompasses a reduction in traffic, improved air quality and the preservation of those things that are special about the area for her: the areas of natural environment and the diverse, vibrant and harmonious community.

**Councillor Nicole Campbell**



Councillor Nicole Campbell finds the City of Ryde a vibrant and welcoming place, with a strong sense of community. She also loves the cultural diversity of the Ryde community, along with the mix of development in the area, from historic weatherboard cottages, to Californian bungalows and contemporary urban design. During her time on Council her main focus has been on ensuring good and sustainable planning outcomes so that town centres remain liveable, environmentally sound and economically sustainable.

She has a strong interest in ensuring effective social infrastructure, including provision of places for people to meet and interact, easily accessible shops and services, good public transport options, a diversity of housing stock, and maintenance of the area's parks and open spaces.

Councillor Campbell has worked hard to improve consultation with the community, so that local residents' views are a key part of Council's decision making processes. She has also worked to promote environmental initiatives, particularly water and energy conservation and sustainable planning opportunities.

Looking to the future she would like to see the City of Ryde recognised as a key component of metropolitan Sydney's future economic development, and would therefore like to see the Macquarie Park Corridor developed as a real CBD area, with investment in public infrastructure and well designed open space for workers and local residents.

She looks forward to the revitalisation of Meadowbank, Eastwood, West Ryde and Ryde through the realisation of the urban village concepts for these areas, as this will improve business development opportunities and service delivery for local residents.

She would also like to see further investment in community programs and social infrastructure to preserve and enhance the City of Ryde's cultural diversity.

**Councillor  
Vic  
Tagg**



Vic Tagg was elected to Council in 2004. There are three aspects about the City of Ryde which particularly appeal to him:

- the position so close to the Sydney and Parramatta city centres, and within commuting distance of the Central and South Coasts
- the citizens of Ryde from such diverse backgrounds all living together in one community
- the parks that provide sporting facilities and green spaces for family activities.

Councillor Tagg has a background as a Rotarian, and the focus on helping the community is one which has underpinned his work on Council. He believes it is important to listen to the community's concerns and endeavour to work out suitable resolutions, and is particularly proud of how this approach helped prevent the closure of Gladesville Library.

He also cites the public domain upgrades at the Putney and Cox's Road shopping centres as projects in which he takes great pride.

One of Councillor Tagg's passions is sport, and he is delighted that by championing sporting activities within the City of Ryde, such as the touch football competition at Morrison Bay and the primary school touch football competition at Meadowbank Park, he has been able to assist young people to engage in healthy pastimes, and to strengthen the identity of local communities through their sporting clubs.

Councillor Tagg would like to see Ryde develop into a transport hub in the future, with transport systems feeding into the Sydney city centre. He also hopes to see the Civic Centre site developed in such a way that it will complement the new Top Ryde Shopping Centre, providing an accessible and functional asset for the City of Ryde, and a revitalised Ryde town centre.

**Councillor  
Ivan  
Petch**



Ivan Petch has lived in Putney all his life, and has a strong connection with the local community. He was first elected to Council in 1977, and currently holds the position of Mayor, a position he has held since 2005. He also served as Mayor from 2000 – 2002. He is also the City of Ryde representative to the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC). Councillor Petch loves the leafiness of the City of Ryde and its proximity to the CBD, whilst not being constrained by the density of development of the CBD.

The community has been his main area of interest during his time as a Councillor. He has very much enjoyed being involved with community organisations and assisting them in their endeavours, and is proud of his work as Chairman of the Community Harmony Reference Group, promoting respect and tolerance.

He also speaks with pride of the number of areas of parkland that have been acquired for the community's use and enjoyment, including North Ryde Common and Putney Park. Community safety has also been important to him, and he has supported the installation of traffic safety devices, such as roundabouts and traffic lights, and the opening of the Gladesville Police Station.

Councillor Petch enjoys the challenges involved with helping to shape the City of Ryde as it evolves, especially on the commercial front, and is delighted to have been involved in the agreement to redevelop of the Top Ryde Shopping Centre.

Looking to the future, Councillor Petch would like to see the City of Ryde remain a safe area, with more facilities for families and young people, including better equipped playing fields and playgrounds. He would also like to see a better transport system, to help reduce dependence on private motor vehicles.

## East Ward Councillors

**Councillor  
Gabrielle  
O'Donnell**



Gabrielle O'Donnell was first elected to Council in 1995. She sees her role as a Councillor as one of advocacy for residents, bringing their concerns to Council and thus giving them a voice.

Councillor O'Donnell loves the spaciousness and greenery of the City of Ryde, which is unusual in an area so close to the city. She also loves the diversity of the area, with each of the 16 suburbs having its own particular character.

During her time serving the community, she has had a particular interest in the City's parks, which have been carefully nurtured and developed into a well-used and well-loved resource.

She is also glad to see the increasing involvement of residents in community activities such as Community Harmony Day, the Granny Smith Festival and Cinema in the Park, as she believes that such activities can help to bring people together.

Councillor O'Donnell believes that the immediate future will bring more medium term development to the City of Ryde, which will provide greater housing choice for people who choose to live here. However, she hopes that the City will preserve its parks and open spaces, which give the area a certain charm and magic!

**Councillor  
Tom  
McCosker**



Tom McCosker was elected to Council in 2004, and is the youngest Councillor in NSW.

He loves the City of Ryde's liveable location and pleasant environment, and the diverse and caring community that lives here. It is the community that has been the focus of his interest during his time on Council, and he has worked to improve and ensure the effectiveness of community consultation, and to improve the quality of community services it receives.

Councillor McCosker also has a keen interest in ensuring that new developments within the City of Ryde are appropriate within the community, and he would like to see greater accountability in decisions concerning new development.

His vision for the City in the future is a vibrant, harmonious and sustainable City.