



# Marsfield Common

## Community Engagement Report

Presented by  
Polis Partners

26 August 2022



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# Introduction

**The overriding intent of North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby is to work with Council officers, Councillors, and the local community to deliver a landmark development outcome appropriate for the TG Millner site.**

To support this, North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby have engaged Polis Partners to undertake the community consultation.

With a combined 40+ years in stakeholder engagement and communications, Polis Partners approach is founded in relationships, results and realism to help deliver sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for communities and developments.

Polis Partners continue to consult with the community and other relevant stakeholders on the Master Plan and Planning Proposal so as to inform the preparation of a site-specific DCP Amendment and, importantly, to gain community input into the design of the future public space.

The following engagement activities should be taken as a guide, as we wish to work with Council to build the approach with Council and stakeholder input.

## Guiding principles of engagement

We believe that plans and developments should identify clear outcomes for places and communities, focusing on providing for the current and future needs of the area.

The guiding principles for our engagement include:

- Being proactive and open about plans and intentions;
- Promise and deliver respectfulness to all stakeholders and community members, and treat them as we would want to be treated in a similar situation in our neighbourhood, and;
- Take an inclusive and listening approach and demonstrate a genuine willingness to incorporate stakeholder and community feedback where relevant and able.

We believe that an effective consultation program does not necessarily mean that all interested parties will be satisfied with the outcome. Rather, it is about ensuring that a proposal has been fully explored, with concerns identified and alternatives considered.

## Engagement Strategy

### Open and Inclusive

All community engagement will seek opinions from diverse groups of people that live in the surrounding areas and other interested stakeholders.

We place a priority on encouraging genuine participation and putting the people of Ryde at the centre of our planning for the TG Millner site.

We aim to be open and inclusive in our engagement and ensure that our communications are accessible for the community, relevant, timely and meaningful.

	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS	PROMISE TO THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY
INFORM	To provide the community with timely and accurate information to assist them in understanding the proposed development and planning process.	We will keep you informed.
CONSULT	To obtain community feedback on the development, alternatives and/or decisions.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced decisions.
INVOLVE	To work directly with the community throughout the process to ensure that local concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.
COLLABORATE	Where possible, to partner with the community in aspects of the development, including alternatives and the identification of the preferred elements.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.
EMPOWER	To demonstrate a genuine willingness to incorporate stakeholder and community feedback where relevant.	We will implement your preferred design and proposal elements where possible.

# The website

## marsfieldcommon.com.au

The Marsfield Common website was launched in early June at the same time as the Facebook Group was brought online.

The website is the primary platform for all information regarding Marsfield Common and most of our collateral directs interested parties there.

Beyond an extensive homepage detailing the many aspects of Marsfield Common, the website also features:

- The 'Key Proposal Information Document' including all details and an artists' impression of the proposal;
- A history of the TG Millner Field site;
- Indigenous history of the area;
- A link to the Marsfield Common petition to show support;
- An overview of the development process which will be updated throughout;
- A place to feature upcoming community events;
- Frequently asked questions;
- A sign-up form to receive updates, and;
- Contact information including email and phone number.

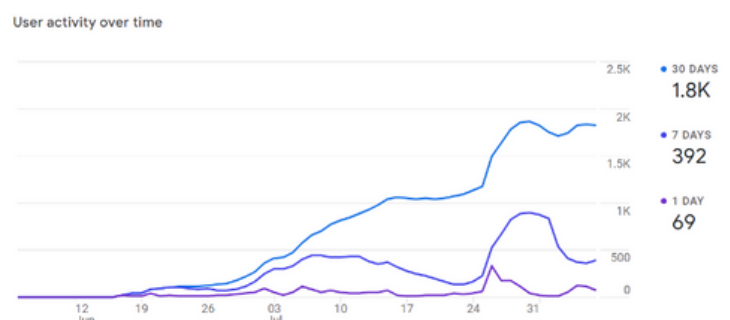
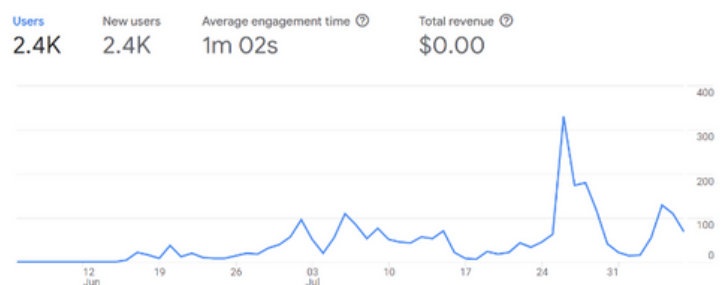
In order to make our planning information more accessible for the changing demographic of the community, we have translated our website into both Simplified Chinese and Korean.

## Analytics

In its first two months (6 June – 6 August) the Marsfield Common website has had just over 2,400 visitors, an average of 40 visitors a day.

With regards to user acquisition (how a user found or was directed to the website), it is evident that our targetted Facebook advertising contributed the largest portion of users.

- 1,501 users clicked through from the Marsfield Common Facebook page (61.8%)
- 738 users clicked on a Marsfield link that would have appeared on one of our many pieces of online collateral. (30.4%).
- 37 users either typed the website into their browsers manually or searched the name in a search engine. (7.8%).



## Email enquiries

Through the Marsfield Common website, visitors are encouraged to email the [info@marsfieldcommon.com.au](mailto:info@marsfieldcommon.com.au) with their questions regarding the proposal or sign up to receive further updates. To date 90 people have signed up to receive updates through the website.

To date, the [info@marsfieldcommon](mailto:info@marsfieldcommon.com.au) email address has only received 7 emails.

All of these emails have been responded to appropriately where possible. Below is a sample of both a negative and positive community email.

## Postive

### Re: Proposed development of T G Millner field



From [Jitendra Joshi](#) on 2022-07-05 21:19

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

Hi Catherine,  
You asked: Please let me know if there is anything particular you would like to see in the park!  
My suggestion: A fenced dog park.  
Regards  
Jitendra

On Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 9:58 AM <[info@marsfieldcommon.com.au](mailto:info@marsfieldcommon.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Jitendra,

That is great to hear you like the look of the plans!

As we are still in the very early stages, we don't have any more detailed plans. What I can tell you is that the portion of land bordering on Vimera Road we have proposed to be a public park. We are also proposing to retain the existing trees in that location and not put any housing there.

## Negative

~~the next morning as quickly as possible.~~



From [Tracey Robertson](#) on 2022-08-02 16:59

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

Dear North Ryde RSL,

Thanks for betraying the people of Epping, Ryde and Eastwood. After successive local councils have strip mined the suburbs from North Parramatta, all the way down Carlingford Road, Epping Road and now through to Ryde we have no local facilities left.

Where are these hundreds of new residents going to swim??????? No more Commonwealth Games Swimming Medals, just more drownings in unpatrolled swimming spots because there is only one clapped out pool at Epping that Parramatta Council has been trying to close for years. Go to other local pools you say .....hmmm they never re-built Parramatta Pool like they promised hmmmmmm.

A Common? A Common what? A dog walking park. Lets all bring up our obese, warehoused families in Ryde. More gamblers and drinkers for North Ryde RSL YAY!!!!!! Better dig into the

# Facebook

We acknowledge that Facebook plays an important role as "town noticeboard", with more geographic and interest-specific groups created every day.

Similar to our website, we have created a Facebook page to post timely and transparent information about the development and proposal process.

We aim to ensure this is a safe space for the community to respectfully share their comments, ideas and hopes for the development.

## Facebook Analytics

In its first two months (6 June – 6 August) the Marsfield Common Facebook page has reached 28,601 people organically, with 1,706 page visits and 31 page likes.

Over the course of these initial two months, approximately \$450 was put towards advertising the page's content with 'boosted' posts specifically targeted to the Ryde area. These boosted posts reached an additional 27,131 people with 55,286 impressions.

### Results

#### Facebook Page reach

28,601 ↑ 2.25%



#### Facebook Page visits

1,706 ↑ 100%



#### Facebook Page new likes

31 ↑ 100%



#### Paid reach

27,131 ↑ 100%

#### Paid impressions

55,286 ↑ 100%





## Examples of Facebook posts

**Marsfield Common**  
June 17 at 10:09 AM · 🌐

You can also access the information on the Marsfield Common website <https://marsfieldcommon.com.au> in both Korean and Simplified Chinese. Simply hit the flag button at the top right of our homepage to change your language preferences.

您还可以访问 Marsfield Common 网站 <https://marsfieldcommon.com.au> 上的韩文和简体中文信息。只需点击我们主页右上角的标志按钮即可更改您的语言偏好。

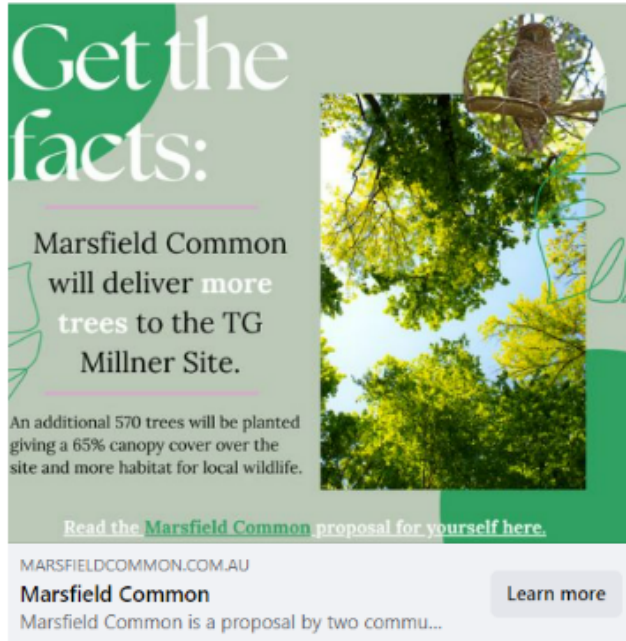
Marsfield Common 웹사이트 <https://marsfieldcommon.com.au> 上的 한국어와 중국어 간체로 된 정보에 액세스할 수도 있습니다. 언어 기본 설정을 변경하려면 당사 홈페이지의 오른쪽 상단에 있는 플래그 버튼을 누르기만 하면 됩니다.

See Translation



**Marsfield Common**  
2d · 🌐

Read more about the Marsfield Common proposal for yourself here <https://marsfieldcommon.com.au/about/>



4

1 Comment

**Get the facts:**

Marsfield Common has offered a \$5million affordable housing contribution to the community

Eastwood Rugby and NRRSL know Ryde needs more affordable housing and they want to help.

Read the [Marsfield Common proposal for yourself here](#).



**Eastwood Rugby Club is moving to Castle Hill**

The new public facility at Castle Hill will include:

- one grass playing field
- two purpose-built synthetic turf fields
- spectator and Club amenities
- lighting for all fields
- adequate on-site parking.

[LEARN MORE](#)





## Save TG Millner

The Save TG Millner account (cause) was created on 10 June 2022.

As of 25 August, the page has 525 followers and 439 likes.

It's highest engagement was on 9 July, coinciding with a Channel 9 news story, with two posts receiving 72 & 65 likes.

The table below is an analysis of the average engagement over the past three months.



MONTH	NO OF POSTS	AVERAGE REACTIONS PER POST	AVERAGE COMMENTS PER POST	AVERAGE SHARES PER POST
Jun	14	19	7	7
Jul	48	21	7	5
Aug	11	23	5	4
Total	73	21	6	5

## Save TG Millner Group

The Save TG Millner Group (public group) was created 21 March 2018.

It has 247 members and has only published three posts: the first on 11 June 2022 and the last, 2 July 2022.



# Door-Knocking

Once the proposal was submitted to the Council, we initiated engagement with the surrounding neighbours of TG Millner Field to inform them of the Marsfield Common proposal and planning process North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby has initiated.

In total, Eastwood Rugby and Marsfield Common representatives door-knocked 64 homes along the bordering sections of Vimiera Rd, Elk St, Yangalla St, Agincourt Rd, Culloden Rd, Thelma St, and Rugby Rd.

To introduce the proposal to the neighbourhood, an informative and high-quality pamphlet was handed to homeowners and included information on the look and feel of the proposed development, why the proposal has been put forward, and the team behind it.

If residents were not home, a pamphlet and a further 'leave behind' was left in the letterbox to ensure everyone was equally informed. As this may be the first contact some residents have with the project, contact information was provided on the pamphlets, as well as links to the project's Facebook page and website.

## SORRY WE MISSED YOU!

Dear Neighbour,

We are sorry to have missed you!

Today we have been paying visits to the immediate neighbours of TG Millner Field to talk with you about the future of the site.

We have left you a flyer introducing our proposal.

For more future information and to register for updates on the proposal, visit [www.marsfieldcommon.com.au](http://www.marsfieldcommon.com.au)

There will be many more opportunities for you to get involved and we hope to gain your feedback and ideas.

Kind regards,

Your neighbours,  
North Ryde RSL  
Eastwood Rugby Club



Marsfield Common 



## A FUTURE FOR TG MILLNER FIELD

**First developed in 1958, TG Millner Field is no longer relevant to the changing demographics and needs of the Marsfield community.**

Its location in the middle of this quiet residential area is incompatible with normal sporting club operations. The deteriorating quality of the infrastructure and decline in local participation over many years led to a decision by Eastwood Rugby in 2017 to relocate its playing operations to a purpose-built playing facility in Castle Hill.

**Marsfield Common is a proposal being put forward by North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby to renew TG Millner Field.**

The proposal contemplates low density housing (two-storeys maximum), a new 1-hectare public park, affordable housing, and the planting of over 500 more trees.



Our aim for Marsfield Common is to reconnect the site to the local community through new neighbours, new local access and high-quality housing.

Once our proposal has been considered by Council in the first instance, we will be seeking input from the surrounding community on our proposal and the public park. For more future information and to register for updates on the proposal, visit [www.marsfieldcommon.com.au](http://www.marsfieldcommon.com.au).

Marsfield Common









# Club Members

The memberships of Eastwood Rugby Club and North Ryde RSL were sent a 'Members Update' informing them of the Marsfield Common proposal, the decisions behind it and the benefits for both clubs. Together, these memberships collectively represent 30,000 local community members.

*"As a Eastwood rugby club member of 60 plus years this development seems appropriate for the local community and ... for future playing of Rugby Union."*




## Marsfield Common


-  Marsfield Common is a proposal by two community organisations, Eastwood Rugby and North Ryde RSL to renew the TG Millner Field site by creating 132 terrace houses of no more than two storeys and a new public park for the local community.
-  Regrettably, the TG Millner rugby fields are now largely unused – only used 20 times by local community sporting clubs or schools in 2019, excluding the Eastwood Rugby Club. The privately-owned site is at risk of either overdevelopment or an unsafe decline.
-  Marsfield Common can best reconnect today's community to the site through new neighbours, new local access, new opportunities, and new ideas.

### THE MARSFIELD PROPOSAL WILL BRING




- No apartments and no high rise. There will only be site-appropriate terrace houses of no more than 2 storeys.
- All homes will include 1-2 garages, and street parking along the newly created laneways will be available for visitors.
- An additional 570 trees planted on the site, including tree canopy coverage of 65%.
- A new 1-hectare public park, well-lit and specifically designed for low-impact recreation.
- Social purpose through the offer of a \$5million affordable housing contribution to the community.




The dedicated public park would include 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of varied play space for all ages, including a senior's exercise park and walking loop, together with an additional 700m<sup>2</sup> of multi-purpose court space for badminton, volleyball and basketball, and permanent table-tennis courts.




### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

-  Learn more about the proposal, by visiting [marsfieldcommon.com.au](http://marsfieldcommon.com.au)
-  Follow the **Marsfield Common Facebook** page for updates
-  Register your support for Marsfield Common and **sign our petition**



Our aim for Marsfield Common is to reconnect today's community to the site through new neighbours, new local access, new opportunities, and new ideas.



For further enquiries, please email [info@marsfieldcommon.com.au](mailto:info@marsfieldcommon.com.au)

# Research

From the start, these two longstanding community clubs have been open and transparent regarding the Marsfield Common proposal for TG Millner Field.

In keeping with this approach, Polis Partners recently engaged YouGov to undertake a comprehensive survey to provide an evidence-based assessment of community knowledge and opinions regarding the Marsfield Common proposal.

The methods used by YouGov have been tested and consistently proven to be the most accurate of any Australian polling company. YouGov uses a variety of methodologies and specialise in providing strategic guidance based on accurate research. YouGov is a non-partisan company and a proud member of the Australian Polling Council.

The survey study was conducted in early August 2022 on live telephone to mobiles and landlines with one third of those interviewed living within 1km of the site, one third within 1 to 3.5 km from the site, and one third living more than 3.5 km from the site,

## YouGov Survey conclusions

The survey results confirmed there is strong community support for the proposal (39%). Just over two in five people (41%) were aware of the proposal before the survey.

After reading out a range of objective positive and negative statements about the project, support increased from 11% to 39% and opposition dropped from 31% to 25%. Support amongst Chinese/Korean respondents rose to 48% from 8%.

The table outlines the top-rating reasons.

TOP REASONS FOR SUPPORT	POLIS PARTNERS' COMMENTS
Helps the two community clubs remain sustainable	<b>Favourability ratings: North Ryde RSL +46% Eastwood Rugby +32%</b> TG Millner Field is no longer relevant to the changing demographics of the Ryde LGA – a trend initially identified by Eastwood Rugby Club in 1990 and reflected since then in the declining usage of the playing fields and registered Club.
More green space for the community and families to enjoy	<b>60% of respondents prefer a public park to a rectangular sports field.</b> Chinese and Korean respondents are far more supportive of an open park than a rectangular field (80% versus 11%). A new 1-hectare public park will include a multi-purpose court, all-abilities play equipment, seating areas, amphitheatre, fitness stations, a seniors' exercise area and a walking track.
Affordable housing	The proposal includes a voluntary community contribution of \$5M for the provision of affordable housing within the City of Ryde LGA.
No high-rise buildings.	The proposal consists of 132 two-storey houses and terraces – the lowest density possible – each with a garage.

# Online Survey

## Online

The Marsfield Common website includes a petition with an open-ended question on the proposal. To date, we have received 123 responses 50% being Korean residents.

Sample response from English language survey:

"Opportunity for the community to benefit through a legacy park, affordable housing and additional public playing field."

Sample response from Korean language survey

"I wish we can build Korean war memorial garden to commemorate Australian soldiers dedicated sacrifice during Korean war and Korean garden."



### Marsfield Common

This is a petition in support of Marsfield Common, a proposal by two community-based organisations, Eastwood Rugby and North Ryde RSL, to renew the TG Millner Field site by creating 132 terrace houses of no more than 2 storeys and a new 1-hectare public park for the local community.

bettwarner@gmail.com (not shared) [Switch accounts](#)

\*Required

Do you support Eastwood Rugby and North Ryde RSL and the renewal of the TG Millner site through the Marsfield Common proposal?

☐ Yes, I support the renewal of the TG Millner site through the Marsfield Common proposal.

Why do you support Marsfield Common?

Your answer



### Marsfield Common

这是一份支持 Marsfield Common 的请愿书，由 Eastwood Rugby 和 North Ryde RSL 两个社区团体发起。请愿内容为改造 TG Millner Field 场地，改造范围包括建造 132 幢楼高不超过两层的联排住宅，以及为当地社区建造一个面积为一公顷的全新公园。

bettwarner@gmail.com (not shared) [Switch accounts](#)

\*Required

您是否支持 Eastwood Rugby 和 North Ryde RSL，并且支持通过 Marsfield Common 提案来改造 TG Millner Field 场地？

☐ 是的，我支持通过 Marsfield Common 提案来改造 TG Millner Field 场地。

您为何支持 Marsfield Common？

Your answer

姓名 \*

Your answer



### Marsfield Common

이것은 Eastwood Rugby와 North Ryde RSL 두 커뮤니티 단체를 중심으로, TG Millner Field 부지에 132채의 2층 이하 테라스 주택과 지역사회를 위한 1헥타르 규모의 새로운 공원을 만들기 위한 기획안인 Marsfield Common을 지지하는 탄원서입니다.

bettwarner@gmail.com (not shared) [Switch accounts](#)

\*Required

여러분은 Marsfield Common 기획안을 통한 TG Millner 부지 재개발과 Eastwood Rugby 및 North Ryde RSL을 지지하십니까?

☐ 예, 저는 Marsfield Common 기획안을 통한 TG Millner 부지 재개발을 지지합니다.

여러분이 Marsfield Common을 지지하는 이유는 무엇입니까?

Your answer

이름 \*

Your answer



The Eastwood Rugby Club and North Ryde RSL have contributed and provided comments to four stories regarding TG Millner Field and Marsfield Common.

The first was an article by David Barwell that appeared in local paper Northern District Times, entitled "TG Millner: North Ryde RSL, Eastwood Rugby Club reveals new housing plan for sporting hub". The article featured images of the proposal as well as quotes and information from the Marsfield Common website.

The second was a Channel 9 News story on the 9th of July, which featured an interview with Robert Cusack, Eastwood Rugby Club President

In late July, the Marsfield Common team were offered an editorial in the locally owned and independent The Weekly Times, which has been servicing Sydney's northwest since 1921 and celebrated its centenary in September 2021.

This piece ran with extensive details about the proposal and quotes from both Rob Millner, Col. Tom Millner's grandson and Eastwood club patron, and North Ryde RSL President Jim Morris.

On the 7th August, the Sydney Morning Herald published an article on the proposed Marsfield Common development of TG Millner Fields. As the organisations behind the proposal, North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby Club were asked to provide responses to an extensive range of questions to inform the article.

As only a small portion of our responses were featured, Eastwood and North Ryde RSL decided to publish the questions and responses in full on the Marsfield Common Website.



## Bennelong MP holds online forum over TG Millner ahead of first day of Federal Parliament

Member for Bennelong, Jerome Laxale, held an online forum with residents last Thursday over future plans to redevelop the TG Millner fields site.

"After hearing of ongoing plans for development I recently wrote to and emailed surrounding residents, regarding the future of the TG Millner fields in Marsfield," he said.

"This large site in Vimiera Road has for many years been a local institution, mainly as the home of the Eastwood Rugby Club.

"But in addition to the sports fields, TG Millner has been a cherished area of open space." Mr Laxale said he was pleased to host a digital community meeting with concerned residents living around TG Millner fields.

"More than fifty residents were able to join the meeting to share their thoughts with me," he said. "In summary residents' main concerns were the preservation of the open space, size and density of the possible development, the process of the development application and how residents can be kept informed and make submissions, parking and traffic flow and general loss of amenity."

He said he was committed to ensuring interested members of the public were informed about the next steps in the process and of his "ongoing concerns for the preservation of open space for the enjoyment of everyone in our community."

A planning proposal to build a residential development on the fields at TG Millner has been lodged.

The current proposal outlines plans to redevelop the rugby fields and clubhouse at TG Millner into 132 residential dwellings, removing a large amount of open space currently used for active recreation.

### First day of Federal Parliament

Elected representatives including TWT Territory's Jerome Laxale (Bennelong), Kylea Tink (North Sydney), Sally Siro (Red)



Member for Bennelong Jerome Laxale is pictured, to left, being sworn in during the first day of Federal Parliament on Tuesday.

and Andrew Charlton (Paramat) were all in Canberra on Tuesday for the first day of Federal Parliament following the May 21 election.

Each gave an oath or affirmation to serve as elected members.

In August and September each is also expected to deliver their inaugural speech, previously known as a Maiden Speech.

Last week, Mr Laxale demonstrated further resolve to focus on his role representing the people of Bennelong by resigning from his role as Ryde Councillor.

"After considerable thought and having sought advice from many, I submit my resignation from the Council of the City of Ryde effective immediately," Mr Laxale wrote in an email to Acting General Manager, Wayne Rylands.

"I will continue to serve our community as the Federal Member for Bennelong and look forward to our frequent meetings and continued cooperation."

"I'd like to thank all at the City of Ryde for the amazing experiences and opportunities I've had in my nearly 10 years of service to the Council and community. To serve as Mayor for five years is an experience I'll never forget."

In information accompanying a Mayoral Minute at Tuesday night's Ryde Council meeting, Mayor Jordan Lane, said: "I write to inform Council that on Friday, 22 July 2022, Councillor Jerome Laxale tendered his resignation (effective immediately) to the Acting General Manager."

"Mr Laxale was first elected to Council in September 2012 and has served as a Councillor since that date," he said.

"He also served two terms as Mayor from September 2015 to September 2016 and from September 2017 to December 2021."

Mayor Lane acknowledged that in the Federal election held in May of 2022, Mr Laxale successfully ran for the seat of Bennelong.

"I'm sure that in his new role the Federal Member for Bennelong, Mr Laxale will continue to have strong ties with the local community and Council," he said.

"I wish him every success in his new role and on behalf of the Council and staff, thank him for his work during his time on Council."

A by-election in Ryde's West Ward will be held on a date to be determined.

## Ryde MP and Mayor lead community campaign against TG Millner redevelopment

A community campaign opposing redevelopment of the TG Millner Fields was launched on Monday by Ryde MP Victor Dominello, Ryde Mayor Jordan Lane and local residents.



Ryde MP Victor Dominello, Ryde Mayor Jordan Lane and community members launched a campaign on Monday against redevelopment plans for the TG Millner Fields. TWT On-the-Spot PHOTO

The campaign opposes a planning proposal for the redevelopment of the site, which would see the high field and clubhouse replaced with a redevelopment comprising 132 houses for TG Millner Field, preserving the redevelopment under the 'Marsfield' Council.

"The need for green space is so important to our community and should be protected as our city grows," Mr Dominello said.

"The community appreciates the economic and social benefits of the TG Millner Fields and is passionate to have them remain a green space in our community."

TG Millner Field was sold by Marsfield Recreation Council under PWS1, a Planning Consent Control, to Eastern District Rugby Union Football Club in 1980. The site is a 100-hectare site.

A plan of 100 sites was due to be passed by the Council in April 2021 according to an update from the Council in April 2021.

"The plan of the 100 sites was passed by the Council in April 2021 and is now being reviewed by the City of Ryde and must be passed at all costs," Mr Dominello said.

"With years of green planning and sustainability planning, we are local community, the site of the TG Millner Field is a green space and should be protected as a green space."

"The redevelopment of the TG Millner Field is a green space and should be protected as a green space."

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## Chinese and Korean communities congratulate new Bennelong MP

Members of Bennelong's Chinese and Korean communities gathered at Ryde House Seafood Restaurant in Eastwood on Friday night to congratulate Jerome Laxale on his recent federal election victory to become the new Member for Bennelong.

Mr Laxale was due to arrive again this week for a Parliament House induction.

Parliament will sit for the first time at the end of July.

"I wish him every success in his new role and on behalf of the Council and staff, thank him for his work during his time on Council."

A by-election in Ryde's West Ward will be held on a date to be determined.

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## Why Hunters Hill tops list for ghost reports

From page 4

While most spirits are encountered in Hunters Hill and the surrounding areas, the most common sightings are in the town of Hunters Hill.

"The sightings are often of a person or a group of people, but they are always in the same place," said a local resident.

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## LETTERS to the Editor

### Support for revamp of Figtree Park

Dear Sir,

I am writing in support of Hunters Hill Council's plans to revamp Figtree Park on Ryde Road.

At present the park is an under utilised, muddy dead zone which will only benefit from the proposed upgrade.

A play space, swings, toilets and even the removal of some of the trees that currently keep much of the park in shade (so grass doesn't grow and where it does, leaving it constantly damp) are all good things.

Critically, the upgrade will be fences or barriers that will keep children running onto the roads - the main reason I rarely took my children there when they were younger. Ideally, I would have

liked to have seen the installation of a public cricket net too since the ones at Bonaia Park are locked up and can only be used by the club.

For the people who complain about the cost, it is hard to assess whether it is too much unless you are an expert on park refurbishment which I suspect few people are.

**TROY ANDERSON**  
Hunters Hill

### Odd community Consultation

Dear Sir,

Eastwood Rugby have engaged a 'consultant team' that will 'seek feedback from the local community' on their plan to replace the TG Millner

### TWT welcomes letters

from our readers. You can submit yours at:

weeklytimes.com.au/letters

Full name, address and telephone number MUST be supplied for letters sent by mail, even if not for publication. Send to:

TWT PO Box 123, Ryde NSW 1680

playing fields with a housing development.

Well, that was money down the drain!

I experienced the first community consultation in June when a small flyer appeared in my letterbox detailing the development proposal and lamenting the fact that I was not at home for person-to-person contact.

I was at home and no attempt at contact was made. The developers no doubt hoped that the flyer would be overlooked and consigned to the bin with the usual mass of junk mail.

Now comes a telephone survey, breath-takingly manipulative.

You are taken through a series of loaded questions with no op-

portunity to express dissent until the survey is over and the opinions the consultants want are extracted.

Some of the prompts given were farcical, along the lines of: "Council wants a park. Do you want a million people from all over Sydney coming to the park?"

This is the standard of community consultation and feedback associated with the lamentable TG Millner development proposal. It is sad to see North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby associate themselves with Sydney's developer spivs. Worst still to claim to act "On behalf of our joint, 25,000+ members."

**MICHAEL A SMITHSON**  
Marsfield

## Council taking steps to keep TG Millner green space

A redevelopment proposal for TG Millner Field in North Ryde will not have the support of the City of Ryde, councillors resolved on Tuesday night.

The council vote follows a TWT article which revealed a proposal by North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby for low density, two storey housing, affordable housing and a one hectare public park

on the rugby field site.

Deputy Mayor Roy Maggio (Ind) was the only councillor who did not support a motion put by Mayor Jordan Lane to instruct Acting General Manager Wayne Rylands to take "any and all steps necessary" to help secure "this iconic local landmark as green open space" in perpetuity.

Councillors also voted to recognise the rich history of TG Millner Field and

the importance of large, open community space and "oppose any plan" to reduce or diminish public access to green space in the City of Ryde.

The Council position is in line with a longstanding campaign to save TG Millner Field by Ryde MP Victor Dominello.

Councillor Maggio abstained from voting.

"I have a different view," he said.

"We all realise if these (redevelopment) plans go to the state government this will be approved."

He said as it stands now there is no public access to TG Millner Field and a better option would be to support the redevelopment proposal with a public and open space consent condition.

"I would like to see the Acting General Manager get something out of it, that would be a better way forward."



# Advertising

In August, the project took out two half-page advertisements in two widely read and regarded local publications. The first placement was in locally owned and independent The Weekly Times.

The second placement was with the Sydney Observer Magazine. Previously known as the Ku-ring-gai Observer, the Observer is the North Shore's premium monthly magazine. It is a free publication distributed in the surrounding councils of TG Millner Field. The paper is circulated to approximately 50,000 people, with a readership of approximately 100,000 people.

The same artwork was provided to both publications, with information about the proposal and the website clearly displayed for readers to seek more information.

## Local News



## In the Name of Tradition

Jay Moulhas

Anthony Vittorino starts everyday with an Italian-style black coffee, and if you're about early enough, you can smell it emanating through his barbershop. The business in St Johns Avenue, Gordon, stretches back decades and is far more than a place people go to have their hair cut.

Frank Vittorino Merz Hairdressing, or Frank's, originated with Anthony's father, Frank Vittorino, and has become something of local legend. Frank loved rugby league, his barbershop, and his family. He was loved in return by all those who came into his barbershop. Anthony recalls a story which became a local folklore.

"My father used to give away PK chewing gum to all the Knox school kids after they had their hair cut. The kids would come in, get their hair cut, get their PK gum from Frank, and then take it to school and share it with their friends. There was this alley in the school which the kids walked through, and at the end of it is where the all the teachers and prefects would wait for them. So, not wanting to get caught, the kids would take out their gum and stick it on the walls and fences. Over the years the gum accumulated, gum on top of gum, and the alley became known as bubble-gum alley."

Anthony took over the barbershop in 1993 and has since continued its tradition. Anthony says that when he was a younger man, he wasn't as interested in school and grades. Because of that, there was an assumption that he couldn't get far in life and become successful. However, Anthony's father Frank gave him an invaluable set of virtues to uphold - ability, love, and being yourself. Anthony says that it is these things which allow him to have such passion for what he does, and he is proud to continue the legacy his father built. Anthony tells Sydney Observer about a conversation he had with his father.

"I asked him one day, 'Dad, what do you like about barbering?' And he said, 'I like everything.' Then I asked him, 'when am I going to start liking barbering?' And he said, 'in about 35 years!' I said, 'what? 35 years?'" And then he said, 'yes, 35 years. That's when you start seeing generation upon generation come in for haircuts. That's when it becomes something more. That's when you'll start to love it.' He was right."

Frank's barbershop feels like a home. The decor, memorabilia (mostly West Tigers merchandise) and vintage style interior make it a place where anyone would feel welcome. As Anthony says, "I got taught from a very young age, that anyone who walks through our door is family. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, you are loved for who you are."

## Makeover to Thornleigh Recycling Centre

We all know how important recycling is. The new and beautified walls of Hornsby Shire Council's Community Recycling Centre are testament to this, with murals by two of Australia's best-known mural artists, Tim Phibs and Steven Nuttall.

Located on the back wall of the facility, Sydney artist Steven Nuttall depicts the goldmine of resources available in electronic waste. The mural shows the relationship between technology, society and nature and acts as a call to arms for our residents to recycle old electronic waste.

On the left of the facility is From little things, big things grow by Tim Phibs. It celebrates the incredible biodiversity, productivity, and new life in soils that have been rejuvenated using recycled organic materials.

The Community Recycling Centre is a free service that makes it easy for residents to safely dispose of problem waste that cannot go into household rubbish bins or kerbside collection.

The murals can be viewed at the Community Recycling Centre at 29 Sefton Road, Thornleigh.

Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4pm and Saturday 8:30am - 12pm. For information visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/recycle](https://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/recycle).



Artwork on the Hornsby Shire Council's Community Recycling Centre, by mural artists, Tim Phibs (on top) and Steven Nuttall.

## Local News

## St Ives Centre Revamp

Ku-ring-gai Council has big plans for central St Ives, with the goal to make it more accessible for businesses and residents.

The Council's draft public domain plan (on public exhibition until 15 August) proposes upgrades to streets to create opportunities for local businesses and improve resident experience while visiting.

Pedestrian safety is a huge part of the plan, with proposed changes including a shared path along Memorial Avenue, changes to Rosedale Road for one-way southbound traffic between Mona Vale Road and Porters Lane, new traffic signals at the intersection of Killalea and Cowan Streets, and an upgrade to Village Green Parade.

Other features of the draft plan include: new paving and tree planting throughout central St Ives, more opportunities for outdoor dining, a new urban plaza near the old school building, upgrades to existing parks, underground power lines, new streetlights, and adjustments to car parking areas to improve traffic flow. 40 km speed limits for vehicles in



Artist Impression Rosedale Road, St Ives

some St Ives streets have already been introduced.

Mayor Jeff Pettett said "the aim of the plan is to make St Ives a more inviting place for people on foot and give the

centre a more attractive look which will help local businesses."

To view the full plans and to have your say, visit <https://krc.emanagementhub.com.au/sttrevamp>.

Marsfield Common

## Unlock TG Millner Field

Marsfield Common is a proposal by Eastwood Rugby and North Ryde RSL to renew the under-used and privately-owned TG Millner Field by creating a new community with 132 low-rise terrace homes and a 1-hectare public park for the local community.

[www.marsfieldcommon.com.au](https://www.marsfieldcommon.com.au)

Unlock Public Access  
Unlock More Usages  
Unlock New Opportunities



# Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Outreach

We have been engaging with prominent members of both the local Korean and Chinese communities.

Marsfield and its surrounding area is a thriving suburb where the demographics and needs of the local community have vastly changed in recent decades.

ABS data (2006–2016) shows that the area has had a significant increase in residents who speak a language other than English (LOTE).

In Marsfield, Eastwood and Epping the LOTE population made up 55–60% of all residents in 2016 – a proportion likely to have increased after the 2016 Census.

Across the four adjacent SA2s, one of the largest nominated regions of the ancestry of all residents in 2016 included North-East Asia (mainly China) at 42%.

In order to make our planning information more accessible to this increasing portion of the local population, the Marsfield Common website has been translated by NAATI Qualified translators into both Simplified Chinese and Korean.

Our petition has been translated into both Simplified Chinese and Korean to complement the website and other collateral.

All major collateral relating to the proposal that has been developed for information and community dissemination has also been translated into both Simplified Chinese and Korean, for example:



**Marsfield Common**

此請願書旨在支持馬斯菲爾德公共用地 (Marsfield Common) 建議書，該建議書由南所社區機構——伊士活橄欖球俱樂部 (Eastwood Rugby) 和北萊德連任華人協會俱樂部 (North Ryde RSL) 編撰。透過聯名132所意見推薦，並為當地社區建立佔地一公頃的全新公眾公園，以興建 TG 米爾納球場。

姓名	地址	簽署	電郵

## Korean language petition

To date, 250 signatures have been received supporting the Marsfield Common planning proposal.

# Marsfield Common

## TG MILLNER 필드의 미래 전망

안타깝게도 현재 TG Millner 럭비구장은 대부분 사용되지 않습니다. 이 사유지는 과도한 개발로 이어지거나 더 쇠락할 위험이 있습니다.

Marsfield Common은 Eastwood Rugby와 North Ryde RSL 두 커뮤니티 단체를 중심으로, TG Millner Field 부지에 132채의 2층 이하 테라스 주택과 지역사회를 위한 새로운 공원을 만들기 위한 계획입니다. Marsfield Common은 새로운 이웃, 새로운 지역 접근성, 새로운 기회와 새로운 아이디어를 통해 현재 지역사회를 이 곳과 다시 가장 잘 연결시킬 수 있는 구상입니다.






**Marsfield Common 기획**

- 주차장을 구비하고 23길맞는 새로운 테라스
- 친환경 레크리에이션된 공원과 밝은 조명의
- 부지의 65%를 덮을 더 많은 나무와 조경;
- 최신 디지털 혁신.

본 전용 공원은 노년층 운동 공간 및 산책로 등을 포함하여, 모든 연령대 한 놀이 공간, 그리고 배드민턴, 배구, 농구 등을 위한 다목적 코트 및 상 700m²의 추가 공간을 포함합니다.

### 참여 방법:

- [www.marsfieldcommon.com.au/ko](http://www.marsfieldcommon.com.au/ko)를 방문하여 본 계획안에 대해 알아보세요.
- 본 프로젝트에 대한 업데이트를 원하시면 **Marsfield Common 페지**를 팔로우하세요.
- Marsfield Common 기획안 지지를 등록하시고 **여기에서 단원서**에

# Marsfield Common

## TG 米爾納球場 璀璨明日

很遺憾，目前大部分 TG 米爾納橄欖球場的土地遭閒置。私人土地面臨過度開發或退化的兩難。

馬斯菲爾德公共用地（Marsfield Common）是一份建議書，由兩所社區機構——伊士活橄欖球俱樂部（Eastwood Rugby）和北萊德退伍軍人協會俱樂部（North Ryde RSL）編撰。透過建造 132 所單層或雙層排屋，並為當地社群建立全新的公眾公園，以重建 TG 米爾納球場。借助新社區、當地接駁功能、機遇及理念，馬斯菲爾德公共用地得以大大提升現今社群與該片土地重新聯繫的能力。

**馬斯菲爾德公共用地建議書提供：**

- 適宜建造單層或雙層排屋並附設車位的土地
- 專門設計的綠地、光線充足的公共開放空間，從而營造影響輕微的康樂活動空間
- 更多樹木和圍境範圍，包括佔據 65% 土地面積的樹冠，以及
- 首屈一指的數碼創新設計。

指定公眾公園將包括為所有年齡組別而設，並占地兩千平方米的多樣化遊樂空間，當中容納了長者健身公園、步行徑，連同 700 平方米的多用途羽毛球場、排球場、籃球場及固定的乒乓球場。





### 參與途徑:

- 欲了解建議書詳情，請瀏覽[www.marsfieldcommon.com.au](http://www.marsfieldcommon.com.au)。
- 追蹤馬斯菲爾德公共用地建議書 Facebook 頁面以掌握項目最新消息。
- 請登記支持馬斯菲爾德公共用地建議書，並於此處簽署請願書。

# Next steps

Polis Partners are committed to transparent and ongoing engagement with neighbouring residents and community and sporting club stakeholders.

We will continue to seek the community's ideas and feedback on the design and proposed uses of the 1-hectare public park that will face Vimiera Road.

As stated in our introduction, we welcome the opportunity to work with Council to build the approach to our common stakeholders.



We look forward to  
working with City of  
Ryde Council and the  
local community.

**MARSFIELD COMMON**

T. (+61) 418 688 844

E. [info@marsfieldcommon.com.au](mailto:info@marsfieldcommon.com.au)