

THE HISTORY OF TG MILLNER FIELD



1950

Vimiera Recreation Grounds is founded

Vimiera Recreation Grounds (VRG), a not-for-profit associated with Eastwood Rugby Club (ERC) is first incorporated in 1950.

Local rugby enthusiasts start to clear trees and thick scrub on the site.

1950

First land is purchased

VRG and Col Tom Millner collectively purchase over 7 acres of land on Vimiera Road on 9 October 1950, for the construction of a sporting complex for Eastwood Rugby.

1954

Col. Tom Millner sells his land

Col. Tom Millner sells his land to Vimiera Recreation Grounds on 18 May 1954.



1960s

More land and a new home for Rugby in Sydney

VRG purchases additional land in 1961 and a clubhouse and oval are built by volunteers in the years following.

Additional land is bought in 1967 and more facilities are built including a grandstand in 1969.

1964

In grateful appreciation of the support and assistance given by the Chairman of the Board, Colonel Tom Millner, the main field was officially named TG Millner Field.

2000

North Ryde RSL leases TG Millner

In 2000 VRG, as the owners of TG Millner, sign a 99-year lease with North Ryde RSL Community Club which transfers the operations of the entire complex to the RSL.



2017

North Ryde RSL buys TG Millner

North Ryde RSL buys the TG Millner site.

THE BEGINING OF

MARSFIELD COMMON

May 2022

Marsfield Common planning proposal and Public Benefit Offer submitted to Ryde Council.

Dec 2022

Planning Panel determines the proposal should not proceed

Sydney North Planning Panel determines the planning proposal should not proceed due to Council's proposed compulsory acquisition and the review then being undertaken by the NSW Department of Planning regarding future open space requirements for Macquarie Park.

Nov 2022

Ryde Council rejects the proposal

Without considering any officer report, Ryde Council rejects the Marsfield Common proposal and seeks to compulsorily acquire TG Millner Field.

Nov 2023

Compulsory acquisition starts

In response to a request from the NSW Minister for Planning, Ryde Council considered a report from its officers regarding the proposed compulsory acquisition of TG Millner Field.

The Minister requested that Council demonstrate:

- the proposed sources of funding for the proposed acquisition,
- the financial sustainability of the proposal in the context of Council's current financial obligations,
- the potential financial risk to Council associated with the proposed acquisition, and
- further explanation and rationale for the acquisition being a priority for Council.

The officer report described Council's financial position as 'precarious' and recommended urgent actions to rectify this in order for Council to be financially sustainable moving forward. Council did not adopt its officer recommendations and instead resolved to reduce its proposed financial commitment to the acquisition of TG Millner Field.

April 2024

Compulsory acquisition fails

The NSW Government refuses the request to seek to compulsorily acquire TG Millner Field due to Council's lack of strategic justification and its inability to fund and sustain the acquisition.

July 2024

The Marsfield Common planning proposal was lodged with Ryde Council again.

Aug 2024

Ryde Council tries to rezone TG Millner

Without considering any officer report, Ryde Council resolves to rezone TG Millner Field to Public Recreation - which would make the site worthless to its owners - North Ryde RSL Club.

Nov 2024

Macquarie Park Plan released

The NSW Government released its Infrastructure Delivery Plan for Macquarie Park which did not identify TG Millner Field as necessary for the future open space requirements of the Ryde LGA.

The Minister for Planning advised Ryde Council that the Macquarie Park rezoning documents did not contain any commitment from the NSW Government to either acquire or preserve TG Millner Field as open space and requested that Council correct its misleading statements in this regard - which did not occur.



Dec 2024

Another compulsory acquisition attempt by Council

Ryde Council again resolved to seek approval from the NSW Government to compulsorily acquire TG Millner Field.

Mar 2025

Council fails to consider proposal again

Given Council's refusal to consider the planning proposal, a Rezoning Review was sought from the Sydney North Planning Panel.

June 2025

Planning proposal to proceed

The Sydney North Planning Panel recommended that the Marsfield Common planning proposal should proceed.

July 2025

Second acquisition attempt fails

The NSW Government refuses the second request to compulsorily acquire TG Millner Field. Again, Council could not provide any strategic justification, nor evidence of its ability to fund and sustain the fields.

Dec 2025

Gateway Determination approved

The NSW Government made a Gateway Determination for the planning proposal, directing that it proceed to public exhibition and assessment in early 2026.

Dec 2025

The sale of TG Millner Field

North Ryde RSL completed the sale of the site to Winston Langley and Abadeen Group, who understand the site's history, share the Club's belief in the Marsfield Common planning proposal, and possess the resources and ability to continue through the complicated and costly rezoning and development application process.

The sale of TG Millner Field has secured the financial future of North Ryde RSL and Eastwood Rugby Clubs.

NEXT STEPS

While extensive community consultation has taken place over the last 3½ years, a formal public exhibition process will be undertaken by the DPHI in early 2026. This will be an opportunity for the community to have their say on the Marsfield Common proposal and, ideally, show support for the much-needed, site-appropriate housing and creation of new public open space for the local community.

We will continue to provide information on the planning proposal and public exhibition process as further details come to hand. If you would like updates on the project, please visit our website www.marsfieldcommon.com.au or contact info@marsfieldcommon.com.au

