

SE News  
HD **Putt putt on hunt for new home as council sells site**

BY Monique Cowper  
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THE iconic putt putt course at Melrose **Park** is facing an uncertain future after Parramatta Council **sold** the **site**.

The second-generation family business is scrambling to find a new location. Last week the council announced it had **sold** the **site** and its surrounds for \$130million to **Chinese** property developers.

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Mayor John Chedid described the **site** as "surplus to community needs". Putt putt has been operating on the corner of Victoria and Wharf roads for more than 45 years.

It is understood the first the owners knew of the council's decision to sell the **site** was when a for-**sale** sign was erected this year.

Manager Kim Whybro said putt putt hoped to stay in the area and was trying to find a new location.

"We are starting to get inquiries from the community about what's happening, I think people realise the value of what we do," Ms Whybro said.

The business has received a letter from a nine-year-old boy, who has been visiting the mini golf since he was three, who wrote, "please don't take it away".

An occupational therapist who takes psychiatric patients to the facility said they were given discounts and carers received free admission.

"Every single patient had a smile on their faces you couldn't get rid of if you tried," he wrote. "Although it may not sound like much, an activity and outing such as this is actually highly therapeutically beneficial." Putt putt has about 120 bookings a day during school holidays, schools use the facility for sporting days and Ronald McDonald House holds regular events for families of children who have cancer.

"We've been here such a long time, people really will miss it," Ms Whybro said.

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A SELECTION FROM THE ALMOST 200 COMMENTS ON OUR FACEBOOK WALL Maddy English Devastating news MEGAN MYHILL Black eye ALEX NADER Alex, remember when jamie drove you there?

PAUL SABA LOL hahahaha JENNIE MINIFIE Where will the children play?

JOEL MASSA They can't do this ELIZABETH GARRATT Oh no, that's so convenient for me and for my Scout **Group**.

Evan Pluto Listerto Melissa and Paul I think we need a game of remembrance...

ASAPNICKI GERRIE I remember my brother having his 7th birthday party there back in 1975, The next visit was with my own children in 2005, and my daughter having her 7th birthday there. The place was just as exciting for my children as it was for my brother all those years before.

NATHAN YOUNIS I am actually shattered CHRISTOPHER RIDINGS Yeek! Sad Matthew McMurtry Oh no! So many childhood memories AMELIA PARKINSON GOODBY Ohh what an iconic amazing childhood place!!!

VIVIAN SCHMIEDTE So so sad. Many many happy birthday parties were held and attended there. KELLY KEEN I always had to have the pink ball every time I went.

ROSE TOROSSIAN Some good memories were had there. So sad it's going to close. This is one of Ryde's unofficial landmarks.

Tim Stratford This is an outrage... The jungle course, water course and tricky adventure course going! Almost as sad as when El Capallo Blanco and Magic Kingdom closed! RIP Ermo putt putt!

LEA EARLE I'm 51 cough cough I had my 6th Birthday party here and next generation so did my two children SAM BURNS to Charlie Smith - must organise onesie soon!!!

MELISSA COX me dad use to live there heheh, We did the 24 hour challenge. It was amazing, so is the stuff. Good luck Katie Hochbaum We are going to miss golf!!! Our three-year-old is obsessed and has been planning her 4th birthday there.. Hope it's still there in February!! RUSSELL EDWARD Message to Bec Turner: I remember playing a few rounds of mini golf here with you RENAYE COWELL We had some of our wedding photos taken there 14 years ago. Such a fun day DOROTHY WARWICKS Such a shame to see another icon disappear — and all in the name of 'progress'

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