



Groundz Precinct  
our future draft vision 2025



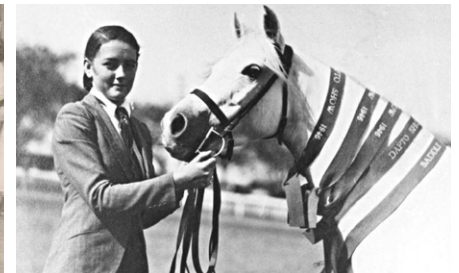
# OUR HISTORY

## the showground

The Dapto Agricultural & Horticultural (A&H) Society was established over 165 years ago in 1857. In the late 1800s the A&H Society was gifted a parcel of land located on the main street of Dapto, providing a permanent home for the Society. In the preceding years, additional land was acquired to form the current footprint of approximately twenty-two acres.

The showground site has provided a valuable community asset in the heart of Dapto for over a century. It is home to the Annual Dapto Country Show, Dapto Rugby League Football Club, Dapto Markets, Food Markets, Illawarra Cancer Carers, Pigeon Club, Poultry Club, Aussie Night Markets, Greyhound Racing, etc., and also provides a venue for various entertainment, events and private functions.

The annual Dapto Country Show is integral to the Society's history and will continue to be held annually. The purpose of diversifying the use of the site is to ensure its long term viability and increase community use and participation. Current tenants, stakeholders, and clubs will form part of the revamped site.



## OUR MISSION

to enrich our community.

## THE VISION

to provide a dynamic community space that facilitates social belonging & engagement.



# VISION FOR THE SITE

## future innovations in the “Groundz Precinct”

The Society undertook a comprehensive options assessment to evaluate the potential long-term use of the site. As a result, an innovative plan for the future was drafted. The plan provides for increased purpose and will allow for greater community participation and enjoyment.

The vision for the site is inspired by various landmark projects and directly ties into Dapto’s rich agricultural heritage. It includes several zones/precincts to create a family-friendly civic to be enjoyed by the young and old. With a multi-purpose field, indoor and outdoor recreational offerings, vibrant hospitality precinct, outdoor children’s playground, and surrounding pathways, parklands and landscaping.

Old buildings will be retained to ensure an appropriate mix of old and new to keep traditional elements.

Design elements & influences.

Think: Old style country feels with a modern twist. Vintage styling that provides a sense of nostalgia, timelessness, and adventure.

Greenery, Connectivity, Authentic, Playful, Fresh.

- Landscaped space to unwind, and leafy gardens
- Outdoor seating and shade options
- Linked with signs, shady pathways, and soft lighting
- Family & pet friendly
- Wifi and charging stations
- Parking & drop off zones



# THE INTRO

## the location

Dapto has a rich Aboriginal heritage along with its local farming history and is located in the Wollongong LGA (local government area), approximately 16km south of the town centre.

Dapto has a population of approximately twenty-three thousand people, with a higher proportion of children and young people when compared to the Wollongong LGA.

The West Dapto Urban Release Area is one of the most significant new greenfield housing areas outside the Sydney Metro area and is expected to house over fifty-five thousand people over the next fifty years.

The site has a beautiful setting nestled in between Lake Illawarra and the stunning escarpment, and is conveniently positioned in the town centre, close to public transport and easily accessible to the M1 Motorway.



# FUTURE GROWTH

## town centre plan

Wollongong City Council developed the Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017 - 2027 in partnership with various local stakeholders. The project provided strategic guidance for the future of the Dapto Town Centre for residents, businesses, community groups, Council, and State Government agencies.

Some key findings identified impacting Dapto included; busy town centre i.e. indoor activities, traffic dominated town centre, streets lack comfort, pleasant atmosphere/experiences, compromised walking environment and underutilised town square. The strategies and guides to help create a unique and welcoming town centre for Dapto include; spaces for recreation, lane-ways to offer pedestrian connections, high-quality buildings and improved street-scape, local history and heritage recognised through art and design elements.

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

## findings

The community consultation and IRIS Research study conducted revealed fervent community support for the "Groundz Precinct" project if it offered an indoor and outdoor family eatery; a cafe precinct; live music and concerts; movie theatre; restaurants and wine bars; and a large outdoor children's playground and parklands. These services and activities, although subject to Wollongong City Council planning and approvals, will provide a rich community space that enables socialisation and activity for all.

inspired; the Groundz Precinct, developed a plan that focuses on public spaces & community engagement!

# PLANS & GOALS

we are planning for the future.

1. Multi-Purpose Field
2. Indoor Recreation
3. Large Family Eatery / Brewery
4. Outdoor Children's Playground
5. Hospitality Precinct I.e. Cafés / Restaurants / Bars Etc.
6. Performing Arts / Multi-Purpose Hall.
7. Short Stay Accommodation

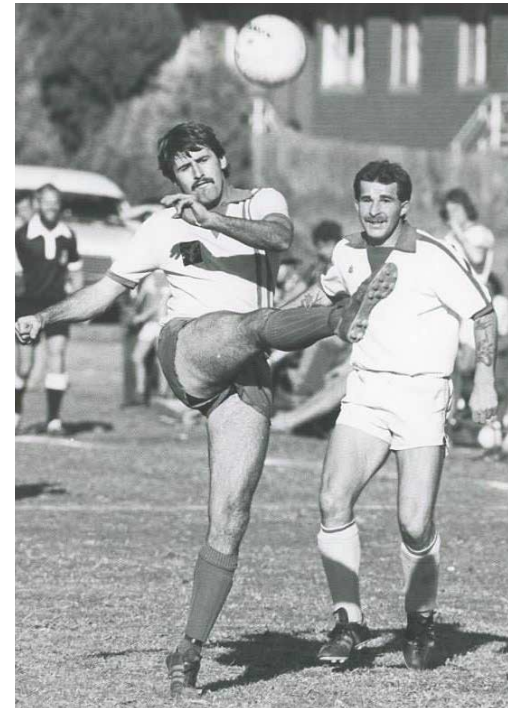
PLANS  
& GOALS

# 1 NO. ONE

multi-purpose field.

By providing flexibility to accommodate a variety of sports and recreational activities, the field will allow for increased participation by members of the local community. It will be everyone's home field, which will assist to build a greater sense of community and fellowship.

A vast green space for kids to enjoy and an area where numerous recreational activities can be enjoyed from festivals to outdoor cinema experiences.





# NO. TWO

## indoor recreation.

The need to do something for recreation is essential for human biology and psychology. Recreational activities provide for enjoyment, amusement, pleasure and “fun”. From social events, exercise, or arts and crafts this zone is sure to offer something for all the family. Offerings in this zone may include; dance studio, swim school, gym, flip out, play maze, and rock climbing, just to name a few.

Access to parking and drop-off and pick-up zones is considered a priority and will allow for ease of access for community users.



# NO. THREE

large family eatery / brewery.

Lively, warm, and inviting atmosphere.

Offering a family-friendly environment with quality food and service. This space is sure to provide a relaxed haven for the whole family to enjoy or to indulge with someone special. Modern yet full of charm, the building will be decked out with a large indoor/outdoor eatery, serving fresh locally produced and wholesome food. Relax and pair with a craft beer or a signature cocktail.

A children's playground may also be included.





# 4 NO. FOUR

## outdoor children's playground.

Play, climb, learn.

Explore and exercise your children's bodies and minds. Of course, we can't forget the main objective here, which is to give parents a small break and to allow children of all ages a space to burn off all that extra energy!

With multiple pockets of fun to explore and elements to discover, the interactive park with sensory elements is sure to keep children of all ages enthralled.





# 5 NO. FIVE

## hospitality precinct.

Vibrant and offering a sense of culture and connectedness.

Considered the beating heart, the hospitality and entertainment precinct will be vibrant and appeal to even the most discerning visitor. Designed to create connections and social engagement, the precinct will offer a range of different options. Through clever design principles, the area will be inviting with casual seating, shaded areas, and landscaped gardens. The shipping container precinct concept is an inspiration for this space, along with barn style country themes.

Potential offerings in this precinct include; function spaces, wedding venue, cooking classes, bars, cafes and coffee shops, restaurants, outdoor space, live music stage, bakery, fresh produce etc.

The Society has already kicked off this precinct by repurposing some sheds and outdoor green space to create a family friendly indoor/outdoor bar, food and function area for community benefit.





# 6 NO. SIX

## performing arts / multi-purpose hall.

The Multi-purpose hall will provide a sizable, attractive, character-filled space for social functions, theatre productions, bingo, quiz nights, musical and choral concerts, conferences, exhibitions, trade shows, and displays.

The hall will be connected to the outdoors and be suitable for all weather. The area will provide versatility with quality audio and staging, comfortable seating, and air conditioning.





# NO. SEVEN

## short stay accommodation.

There is a small area at the southern end of the site that is zoned residential.

Due to the vast array of entertainment offerings and attractions in the draft future vision, short stay accommodation is a fitting addition. Offering a delightful alternative to hotel or motel rooms, the rooms will offer a comfortable and character filled experience. Stroll through the “Groundz Precinct” with the family, visit the large eatery, relax in a cafe, find a cosy reading nook, enjoy a cooking class, or simply sit and relax in the shady park.





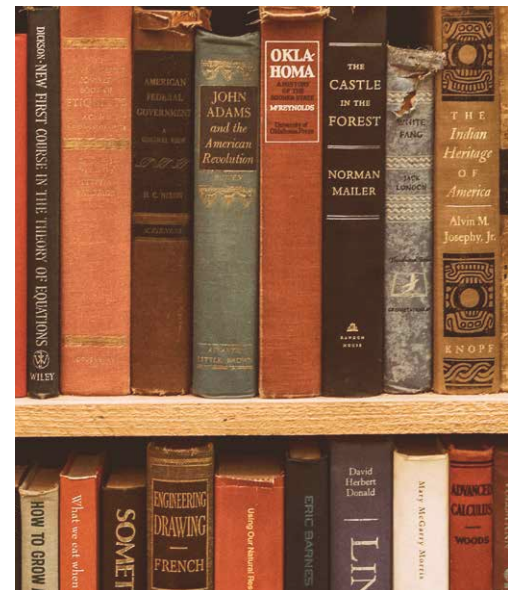
# PLEASE NOTE

disclaimer below.

Each image in this document has been handpicked to visually reflect the direction of the showgrounds site transforming into the “Groundz Precinct”. All images, plans, and goals provided herein are conceptual only, and no approvals have been obtained. All are subject to Wollongong City Council planning approvals.

All information is subject to change at the discretion of Dapto A&H Society.

The draft future vision of the “Groundz Precinct” is not confirmed and is subject to change depending on interest received and leasehold and/or joint venture partners secured during the process to assist in achieving the draft vision and increase the use of the site.





# BE PART OF OUR FUTURE

you can support our vision

If you are interested in being part of the future Groundz Precinct  
& would like more information visit [www.thegroundz.com](http://www.thegroundz.com)

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