

# Helping families connect

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**WHY I LOVE MY SUBURB**

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OLMC Parramatta teacher Matthew Esterman.

OUR Lady of Mercy College Parramatta modern history teacher Matthew Esterman and his wife live in Oatlands with their son Archie and his newborn daughter.

**Q** When did you move to this suburb and why?

**A** We drew a radius around the city as to where we could afford and were extremely lucky to afford a townhouse. Living here, on a really good run, is a half-hour trip into the city via the M2.

**Q** What do you like most about living there?

**A** I think that centrality and connectiveness. We've got family in the country and we can get there in a few hours, and we've got family on the northern beaches. The suburbs near it are lovely. We've got access to hospi-

tals like Westmead and the NSW Department of Education moved here.

**Q** What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

**A** We've got a two-year-old boy Archie and on Monday we had a baby girl so it's spending a lot of time with family, visitors from the country, going to the beach or finding a cafe for lunch or snack. Weekend time is for family and a bit of work.

**Q** What is your favourite cafe/restaurant/bar and why?

**A** I do have to do a shout-out for the Villiers Canteen at Parramatta. They keep us (teachers) awake and I'm sure in a couple of weeks, there will be a latte for me. The Rose and Crown at Parramatta has changed a lot. We're more conscious

of having kid-friendly places after going to Northmead Bowling Club and becoming a member - they have a kids' playground.

**Q** What is your best memory from living in this area?

**A** Probably playing in the park with Archie because we are quite lucky to have some leafy suburbs. In North Parramatta, Doyle Ground, and there are a few parks dotted in Oatlands and Kingsdene.

**Q** What do you wish you could change about your suburb?

**A** It's something they're working on already but it's public transport. I think people's work-life balance is really important so something as basic as reliable public transport can alleviate that issue.