

momentum

maitland city council news



A young family relaxing at Walka Water Works.

Our beautiful city continues to grow

We all know how great Maitland is to live, spend time with our families and even work. The reality is though that there are more and more people realising this too, which is one of the key reasons that our city has become the fastest growing non-metro area in NSW. This positive growth is also reflected in the Greater Newcastle Metro Plan, which identifies Maitland as a key location for future growth in the Hunter.

While this is great news for future development of the city and of course the economy, just as important is the way this growth is managed sustainably. Council's job is to help to try and balance this steady progress and ensure our community continues to

have the required services and facilities as we grow.

This issue of Momentum provides information on Council's strategy in managing this growth, our Community Strategic Plan Maitland +10 and some of the things coming up in the months and years ahead.

There is often a lot of discussion and commentary about Maitland's heritage and while our history remains important, similarly, so is the future of our city. Our recent growth has provided a number of new opportunities for people and businesses and there are plenty more to look forward to as our city becomes an even better place to live.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

In my 33 years as a Maitland resident, I've certainly come to know the history of our wonderful city quite well. I think we have all wished at some point in our lives to freeze time, it's also important to remember progress and change is essential for all communities to continue to thrive.

In recent years this change has been incredible. We have experienced a significant increase in population, welcomed investment from government and the private sector, and watched as our city and retail spaces were transformed. I'm incredibly proud to have had the opportunity to witness all this from both my position as a councillor and now Mayor, and I look forward to seeing how as a community we can continue to take advantage of the opportunities our city's growth presents.

Until next time,
Mayor, Cr Loretta Baker



WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE WANT?

Statistics help us get an understanding of who we are as a community. We know Maitland people are a proud bunch, that's for sure, but we are also a population of almost 80,000 people, which will reach close to 105,000 by 2036. We are an average age of 36, have 2.7 people living in our households and our highest employment industries are health care, retail and construction. We also have a strong sense of community and when we travel we proudly tell people we're from Maitland rather than Newy.

All this information helps us understand what we need to consider as we plan, both as a community and as a Council, to help ensure Maitland is the best it can be. Leading this approach is Maitland +10, which is our community's 10 year strategic plan that over 4,400 people actively had their say in developing via face to face and online community consultations.

Maitland +10 is now available on Council's website to read and identifies what we want as a community, like the convenience and availability of services and infrastructure right here in Maitland, as well as how we will work together to achieve this.

Council's role is to support the delivery of Maitland +10 through our three year Delivery Program and an annual Operational Plan. Our city's growth offers both opportunities and challenges and Council will help try and balance this with an emphasis on delivering services and infrastructure that meet the needs of our growing community.

To read a complete version, search Maitland +10 on Council's website at maitland.nsw.gov.au

YOUR LINK TO THE HUNTER RIVER

The opening of the Riverlink at The Levee has certainly caught the eye and really transformed the space at The Levee. It especially shined during both Riverlights and Maitland Taste events and showed its potential for future activities.

The connection of High Street to the banks of the Hunter River has opened the city to one of our most cherished natural assets. It's easy to see that as a community we will no doubt use the space to share many more wonderful celebrations and events in the years ahead.

The addition of the Riverlink Café in the coming months, with a unique vista of the river, will help ensure the space reaches its full potential. The search for the perfect tenant for the building has begun and will enhance The Levee's reputation as a lifestyle precinct.

If you haven't already visited The Levee to check out the Riverlink Building, then make sure you take the time to visit the precinct and see what it's all about. Don't forget to shop local while you're there too.



The newly opened Riverlink at The Levee.

COUNCIL BECOMES FULL MEMBER OF RID SQUAD

Council has officially joined the Hunter–Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping Squad as a full member.

While Maitland has been associate member for some years, it was decided at a March Council meeting that we make the step up to a full member. The incidence of illegal dumping and illegal landfilling with waste material appears to be on the increase in the Maitland area so it was a timely decision.

Come July this year and as a full member, Council will be more involved with the squad but it will also be able to leverage further benefit from the approved state government funding.

To find out more about the Hunter – Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping Squad visit epa.nsw.gov.au and search 'RID Squads'.



Illegal dumping has been on the rise in the Maitland area.

BALANCING DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION GROWTH

With the continued growth of Maitland, it's imperative we have the residential infrastructure in place to accommodate all our new neighbours. Luckily for all new residents, we've planned ahead!

The Maitland Urban Settlement Strategy (MUSS) 2012 provides a framework for the future urban growth of Maitland. It identifies 'Urban Release Areas' (URAs) which will accommodate those larger residential subdivisions that will provide the majority of the residential expansion across the City over the next 10 to 20 years.

Thornton North is a URA that has a capacity of around 5,000 lots and is currently around one third developed with more applications for subdivision under assessment. It has shown the strongest growth to date of any of the Maitland URAs.

The Lochinvar URA has a capacity for around 5,000 lots as well. Council have approved a number of development applications within the Lochinvar URA which will see the establishment of around 320 lots with further applications under assessment.

Anambah has a capacity of between 3,000 and 3,500 lots. The Anambah URA has not yet been rezoned for urban development however it is expected that the rezoning will be finalised within the next couple of months. Preparation of both the Anambah Development Control Plan and the Anambah Section 711 Plan has also commenced.

Other URAs with huge potential include Gillieston Heights South, Farley, Louth Park and Rutherford West.

You can find out more by visiting maitland.nsw.gov.au and searching for 'MUSS'.



Meeting in Gillieston Heights for the announcement of funding for the shared pathway.

Maitland a Stronger Country Community

In March it was announced that Council was successful in receiving funding for two projects under the Stronger Country Communities Fund round one. The money will go to a shared pathway between Gillieston Heights and Maitland, and to upgrades at the popular Bakers Brickyard Playground on Morpeth Road in Raworth.

The shared pathway is part of a \$2.4 million project of which \$950,000 has been funded by the NSW Government for works that will include a cycleway bridge over Fisheries Creek and 500 metre path from the bridge to the New England Highway.

Around \$559,000 has been allocated to improvements at Bakers Brickyard Playground. These include a 27 bay sealed carpark, amenities block and a shade structure over the existing equipment.

The process for Round Two funding under the Stronger Country Communities Fund has now commenced and Council has heard from local community and sporting groups who are interested in receiving funding for their projects. Council is in the process of prioritising these projects and will make an official submission on 4 May.

To find out more search Stronger Country Communities Fund at nsw.gov.au



The site of the multipurpose facility in Largs.

MULTIPURPOSE FUN IN LARGS

In February it was announced that Largs Park and Ernie Jurd Oval will receive over \$17,000 in funding under the federal government's Stronger Communities program.

The park caters for a variety of sports and activities including tennis, football, cricket, personal training and even a dog obedience group.

Council will put the money towards converting one of the tennis courts into a multi-use sports facility.

The court will get a new brightly coloured surface which will be line marked to distinguish the different disciplines and it will incorporate a kick wall, a basketball/netball hoop and futsal goal posts.

It's hoped the court will encourage Largs locals to get out and participate in physical activity in a more informal way.

Works have just kicked off and it's expected they'll be complete by the end of May.

Local projects recognised

In March the city of Maitland was recognised at the Australian Institute of Architects 2018 Newcastle Architecture Awards.

While the University of Newcastle's NeW Space building won the biggest award on the night, the new 1,100 seat grandstand at Maitland No. 1 Sportsground won the award for Public Architecture.

Things didn't end there for Maitland either, with the refurbishment of the auditorium at Maitland Town Hall given a Commendation in the Heritage Category.

Congratulations to all who were involved in these projects which are now eligible for the NSW Architecture Awards and will without doubt serve locals in their own unique way for many years to come.



The grandstand at No. 1 Sportsground.

Athletics track takes next step forward

The development application for the Maitland Regional Sporting Complex – Athletics Track was recently submitted, which means the \$10.5 million project has taken another significant step before construction begins later this year.

Joint funded by Council and Restart NSW Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund, the project will be built on the site of the No. 2 Sportsground and Smyth Field in Central Maitland. The designs and plans are looking great and it's an exciting project for our community.

The redevelopment of the site will be a welcome addition to the high quality sporting options available in the city. It is set to feature a 400m synthetic track and associated field facilities, an amenities building, spectator seating and car parking, which will service both the new facility and No. 1 Sportsground.



Maitland Regional Sporting Complex - Athletics Track.

Indoor pool makes a splash as visitation rises

Summer is firmly in the past and with the warm weather and addition of the indoor pool it was a great season for Maitland's pools. Attendance at Maitland Pool alone is up over 45% from last season with a longer swimming period and the introduction of more fitness programs contributing to the positive increase.

The great news though is this will be the first year that locals will be able to swim all year round, with the indoor facility up and running. This means you can get in your early morning laps, kids can continue to take their learn to swim classes and squad training will operate throughout winter.

The Maitland and East Maitland outdoor pools close for the season on Sunday 22 April. So if you would like to keep swimming through winter then make sure you keep up to date with all the indoor pool programs and opening times by visiting maitland.nsw.gov.au/aquatics

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT AT THE GAOL

As part of the '20 Years On' commemoration of Maitland Gaol closing in 1998, a new oral history project is launching, aimed at people who may have a story to tell about the Gaol.

Over the centuries, the passing down of stories from one generation to the next has been key to the preservation of history and the idea of this oral history project is to capture a whole range of stories before they become lost, which could happen much sooner than you would think.

Throughout the 20 years the Gaol has been closed and while operating as a cultural tourism facility, the importance of working with and recording people's histories has been recognised as a critical feature of the site, with this not being the first time that oral history has been commissioned for the Gaol. The aim in this instance however, is also to widen the scope from just a focus on operational stories to more personal stories about the Gaol.

The project will be ongoing, and members of the public can find more information by going to maitlandgaol.com.au, by calling 4936 6842 or by visiting the Gaol and picking up a registration form. If you've got a story, please get in touch.



Maitland's new indoor pool will operate all year round.

LIBRARY HUNTER CONSORTIUM

At a recent Council meeting, Councillors recognised Maitland's involvement in the Hunter Libraries Consortium. The Consortium is an agreement for digital resource sharing by Hunter region public libraries including Maitland, Cessnock, Singleton, Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter libraries.

The cooperation to provide shared digital resources has enabled a broader scope of digital audio, book and magazine collections to be available to the community.

The consortium has done some great things for library members already, including providing an increase of 300% in the range of digital magazine titles available, boosting the library's eAudio and eBook collections significantly and maximised the scope of the digital resources downloadable from local library websites.

In a new era of hybrid library collections containing digital, print and audiovisual formats, the cooperative consortium agreement is crucial because it leverages the finite resources of the individual libraries to achieve broader collections for the benefit of Hunter communities.

To check out all of our great digital resources visit maitlandlibrary.com.au and click on collections.

HALF A MILLION MAKE IT TO MRAG

In March, Maitland Regional Art Gallery welcomed its 500,000th visitor through the doors. Since opening in 2009, MRAG has become one of the finest of all regional NSW public galleries and a bright feather in Maitland's cap.

Some of the exhibitions on at the gallery right now include Sonant Bodies by James Hazel and Victoria Pham, Luminous Maitland, Faces of Maitland by Stuart Scott and the finalists from this year's Doug Moran National Portrait Prize. Another show that is not to be missed will be Wendy Sharpe's Secrets exhibition opening in late May, with the chance to watch as she paints the walls of the gallery.

In addition to a range of exhibitions, the gallery hosts lots of different events so to find out what's on and when visit mrag.org.au



Maitland Regional Art Gallery.



Council's new road repair truck, the PaveLine Cogen 10.

Infrastructure and Works update

NEW TRUCK MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The PaveLine Cogen 10 might sound like a machine from the future, but it's actually Council's new road repair truck.

Council's Civil Works team have been using the truck for the last three months and it's really enhanced and improved a lot of what they can do. It's also allowed workers to repair more roads, in a shorter period of time.

Some of the advantages of the truck are that one less labourer is required during operation, there are less staff movements behind the truck, there is around 60% less manual handling required and the 10 tonne body design is more than twice the capacity of Council's existing trucks.

Factoring in all the improvements, there's no doubt that over the six year lifespan of the truck, there will be a significant positive outcome.

If you see it around your place make sure you give Council staff a wave!

ROAD WORKS IN MAITLAND

MAITLAND VALE ROAD

There have been works running on Maitland Vale Road since January. They include significant bulk earthworks for some realignment and improved safety of the road and drainage upgrades.

LUSKINTYRE ROAD - \$950,000

Pending a final design, there will be road widening and rehabilitation of road pavement along Luskintyre Road.

LOUTH PARK ROAD AND MT VINCENT ROAD INTERSECTION - \$780,000

To improve safety at this intersection, Council will undertake road widening and turning lane works in May 2018.

APRIL CIRCUIT - \$400,000

There will be pavement replacement works undertaken along April Circuit in Bolwarra Heights in May 2018.



Works continue at Maitland Vale Road.

FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS - \$500,000

There will also be significant installation of new footpaths at South Seas Drive and Galway Bay Drive in Ashtonfield, starting from June.



Maitland City Council

285 - 287 High St, Maitland NSW 2320

t 02 4934 9700 f 02 4933 3209

info@maitland.nsw.gov.au | maitland.nsw.gov.au

Disclaimer: This newsletter has been prepared by Maitland City Council from information available as at 11 April 2018. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein however Maitland City Council accepts no responsibility for any consequences resulting from misdescription or inadvertent errors.