

# momentum

## maitland city council news



Construction of The Riverlink Building is progressing well at The Levee

## Building our city for the future

Planning for the future of our city is one of the most important functions of Council. Each year, as part of this process, Council develops an Operational Plan that sets out the delivery of services and projects during the next financial year. This includes plans for infrastructure construction, implementation of any new services, as well as the development of key community strategies.

In recent years, some of the projects and programs that were delivered as part of previous Operational Plans include The Levee Development Component One, the roll out of the kerbside organics waste service, upgrade of local bus shelters, as well as hundreds of kilometres of road works and repairs.

Looking forward to this year's Operational Plan, there are some exciting items to come. With a total budget of \$148 million, the largest to date, the program includes the completion of The Riverlink Building at The Levee, construction of a community centre at Gillieston Heights and a skate park in East Maitland. Improvements will also be made to footpaths and cycleways, as well as more than \$12.9 million in road works. You can find the full Operational Plan on Council's website by visiting [maitland.nsw.gov.au](http://maitland.nsw.gov.au)

As the city continues to expand it is important that our services and infrastructure keeps pace with this growth. In the following pages you'll find more details of what's to come this year, as Council looks towards helping build our city for the future.

### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

*This year's Council Operational Plan is quite a unique and special plan. Yes, it features Council's largest ever budget, but it also includes the completion and start of a range of significant projects that will help improve our community's infrastructure and facilities. These works will offer more options for commuting around town, as well as open further opportunities for entertainment and recreation that people in our community desire. It is a particularly exciting 12 months ahead that will see our city continue to blossom.*

*Coming up in September we also have Council elections. I encourage you to engage with this process, find out who your local candidates are and vote for the representatives that you believe will strive to keep improving our community for the better. More information about the elections will be made available closer to September.*

*Until next time,  
Mayor Peter Blackmore OAM*



## STREET EATS INITIATIVE A HIT

Across February, March and April, Council conducted a three month pilot 'Street Eats', a mobile food program that brought street food to Maitland.

Hundreds attended Street Eats over the course of the three months, with ten local food trucks serving up unique dishes at over twelve locations across Maitland, East Maitland, Rutherford, Morpeth and Thornton.

Council's next step is to evaluate the program to inform the development of a mobile food policy and guide the future Street Eats program. In the meantime, keep your eyes peeled for street food vans popping up at events and different locations around the city.



## SCOPING A RENEWED APPROACH FOR THE CITY OF MAITLAND

In May, Council announced that it had engaged Renew Australia to conduct a scoping study to determine the feasibility of an urban renewal program in Maitland.

Renew Australia works with communities and property owners to take otherwise empty shops, offices, commercial and public buildings and make them available on a short term basis for use by artists, creative projects and community initiatives.

Over the coming months, Renew Australia will review opportunities to activate vacant properties and begin discussions with property owners and agents to test the viability of a pilot project.

A report on the outcome of the Renew Australia scoping study is expected to be finalised in July. For more about the scoping study, or if property owners and creatives wish to contribute ideas, contact Maitland Visitor Information Centre via email at [welcome@mymaitland.com.au](mailto:welcome@mymaitland.com.au)

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## WHAT'S ON AT THE GAOL, LIBRARIES AND MRAG



### GAOL IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS NIGHT TOURS RETURN

Following its popularity last year, Maitland Gaol Under Lights returns this year on the second Friday of the month from May to July. Explore the site Under Lights with one of the three self guided audio tours, Maitland Gaol Revealed, Escaping Maitland Gaol or Snitch's Gaol Exploration. The gates will be unlocked from 6.30pm to 9.30pm (last entry at 8.00pm) giving you the opportunity to explore the dark corners at your own pace.

Maitland Gaol will also be hosting activities for the kids throughout the July school holidays including Beanbag Cinema and peg doll making. For more information or to book tickets head to [maitlandgaol.com.au](http://maitlandgaol.com.au) or call 4936 6482.

### BLAST FROM THE PAST AT LOCAL LIBRARIES

Local libraries are more than just books. They play an integral role in our community by providing educational, historical and community based information in all forms, from books, ebooks, audio and video resources, as well as access to an online local history portal.

Each of our four local libraries are open to anyone who pops in and they will be a great place to take the kids these school holidays with retro toys and games taking centre stage.

Games like Chess, Jenga, Snakes and Ladders and vintage activities like quoits and hopscotch will all be part of Maitland City Library's School Holiday Program in July. The great mix of activities provided by professional entertainers and library staff means there really will be something for every child.

Bookings are essential and can be made at [maitland.nsw.gov.au/library](http://maitland.nsw.gov.au/library)

### EXPLORE WITH LIONEL AT MRAG

Maitland Regional Art Gallery has quickly embedded itself into the cultural fabric our community and is a popular destination for locals and visitors alike, whether they take in the artwork, peruse the shop, stop for a coffee or bring the kids along for some art fun.

Recently, MRAG acquired a collection of 170 artworks by Lionel Lindsay – one of the world's best printmakers of the 20th Century. Valued at over \$200,000 and donated in full these items now make up 'Lionel's Place' at the Gallery.

As part of the Lionel's Place exhibition, MRAG has created 'Art Cards', 12 in total, that assist young visitors to explore the exhibition. They involve fun, interactive activities that will get kids involved and ensure they have a great time at the Gallery.

For more about Lionel's Place and to see what else is happening at MRAG over the next few months go to [mrag.org.au](http://mrag.org.au)

## Aroma Coffee and Chocolate Festival

With the cool weather now upon us, locals can look forward to 'warding off the winter chill' at the Maitland Aroma Coffee and Chocolate Festival. Scheduled for August in the Riverside Carpark in Central Maitland, Aroma is a celebration of delicious winter comforts and our thriving coffee culture, and in 2017 there will be an even more diverse program.

This year, Aroma will feature some of the finest coffee and chocolate from around the region amongst 80 artisan food and market stalls, as well as expert led demonstrations and workshops in coffee and chocolate preparation, live music, art and more.

For more information visit [maitlandaroma.com.au](http://maitlandaroma.com.au)



*Aroma Coffee and Chocolate Festival, Riverside Carpark*

## NATIONAL TREE DAY AT WALKA

National Tree Day will be celebrated with a seedling giveaway on Wednesday 26 July at Walka Water Works starting at 12.00pm until all seedlings are gone. Around 1,000 seedlings will be on offer with residents able to receive four plants. Tenants should seek owner's approval prior to planting trees. See Council's website for more information.

Additionally, a tree planting event will take place on Sunday 30 July at Walka Water Works. Planting will start at 9.30am with participants reminded to wear closed in shoes and sun protection. Registrations will be taken on the day.

## GET RID OF ILLEGAL DUMPING

Council has been working with the Hunter Central Coast Regional Illegal Dumping Squad on a joint campaign to target the problem of illegally dumped waste throughout Maitland. A number of hot spot areas are being looked at and Council is already investigating a number of instances of illegal dumping.

On the spot fines for illegal dumping can be up to \$4,000 for an individual and \$8,000 for a corporation.

To help fight against this visible pollution of the environment visit [ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au) and report your sightings today. Let's all work together to get RID of illegal dumpers.

# Big upgrades on the way for local roads

Council will spend more than \$8.5 million on several major road reconstructions across the Maitland Local Government Area in the 2017/18 financial year.

One of the major works is the \$1 million reconstruction of Wollombi Road at Bishops Bridge. Works will include pavement and drainage upgrades and will tie in with the Blackspot funded works that were recently completed on Wollombi Road, nearby.

There's also major works set to begin on a section of Taylor Avenue, between Haussmann Drive and Bunbury Avenue at Thornton. These works will include pavement reconstruction and significant drainage improvements.

Other big jobs to look out for this year include the \$800,000 reconstruction of Lawes Street in East Maitland, between Brunswick Street and Alliance Street.

## EVERY REHAB AND EVERY RESEAL COUNTS

Council's Rehabilitation Program and the Reseal Program involve intermediate treatments to prolong the life of road pavements and aren't major reconstructions. The combined spend of both of these programs in 2017/18 will be in excess of \$4.6 million, across 70 segments of road in the Maitland area.

Some larger road rehabilitation projects planned for 2017/18 include Paterson Road at Bolwarra, a reseal on Burg Street at East Maitland and work on Denton Park Drive in Rutherford, which all add up to a combined cost of around \$830,000.

Other significant improvements will be put in place on Allan Walsh Drive, Maitland, Chisholm Road, Ashtonfield and High Street, Maitland, over the course of the next 12 months.

To see what else is scheduled in the 2017/18 financial year search for Council's Capital Works Program 2016-2020 at [maitland.nsw.gov.au](http://maitland.nsw.gov.au)



*Works will soon begin on Taylor Avenue in Thornton*

## PEDAL PATH TO CONNECT GILLIESTON HEIGHTS TO MAITLAND

A concept design, which proposes a cycleway link between Maitland and Gillieston Heights, has been completed and is currently being assessed by Council.

The plan is to construct a three metre wide path connecting Gillieston Heights to Maitland. The path is more than two kilometres long and includes a new cycle/pedestrian bridge crossing at Fishery Creek.

The path is identified and funded from the Section 94 developer contribution plans for Gillieston Heights and will provide safer connectivity and opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians. Funding for the first stage has been included in Council's Delivery Program for 2017/18 and should see construction commencing in 2018 following the allocation of funds.

The total project cost for the construction of the cycleway is \$2 million, which is part of the implementation of a broader bike plan and is aimed at improving both Maitland's on road and off road cycleway networks.

## MORE BUS STOPS FOR LOCAL COMMUTERS

Council continues to expand Maitland's network of bus stops. With funding contributions from Transport for NSW and developer contributions, 13 bus stops have been constructed in Metford, Thornton and East Maitland since March this year and new shelters were recently constructed on Denton Park Drive, Rutherford and Church Street, Maitland.

Over the course of the next financial year there will be \$208,000 put towards the construction of an additional 77 bus stops in Rutherford, Thornton, East Maitland, Raworth and Morpeth.



*New bus shelter in Church Street, Maitland*





*Indoor pool moves into the final lap*

## MAITLAND'S INDOOR POOL NEARING COMPLETION

The water in the new 25 metre indoor heated pool is expected to be in and lapping at the pool edges in June. The project is close to the finish line, however there still remains a bit of work before the pool officially opens for swimming.

An important step remaining is the commissioning of the pool, which involves water quality and balance testing, as well as testing the filtration system. At the same time, final touches will continue on the external works and plant equipment.

Planning for an official opening event is underway. More details about when the indoor pool will open will be made available through Council's social media profiles on Facebook and Twitter.



*Progression of The Levee Riverlink Building continues*

## THE RIVERLINK BUILDING SHAPING UP

The Riverlink Building at The Levee has begun to take shape as the structural steel elements for the walls and roof have now been installed. The current phase of works includes the construction of the brick walls, which will begin to add some depth to the structure. At the same time, work has started on the pavement for the Riverside Walk component of the project.

Work has also commenced on the upgrade of the Bourke Street Link, which is a major part of the Component Two of The Levee Development. Works in this area include the renewal of the pedestrian ramp and steps, and repairing the retaining wall on the river side. Completion of these works is planned for late 2017.

Visit [theleveemailand.com.au](http://theleveemailand.com.au) for more information about construction of The Levee Development Component Two.

## New grandstand now complete

The new grandstand at No. 1 Sportsground was officially opened to the public in May by the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, New South Wales Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Special Minister of State.

The new 1,100 seat grandstand was completed in ten months and features improved access and an enhanced view of the field. Within the new grandstand there are also two large change rooms that can be partitioned off to make four rooms, as well as high quality public amenities, a canteen that will cater for a range of sporting and community events, and a function room that is available for hire through Council.



*Official opening of the new grandstand*

# Construction set to start at Smyth Field

Council is on track to begin construction of the Maitland Regional Sporting Complex at Smyth Field later this year. The project is the next stage of the \$19.1 million sportsground redevelopment, which will incorporate a brand new athletics complex and facilities.

While it will be used primarily as an athletics facility and there has been consultation with the athletics clubs within the Maitland area, there has also been engagement with the wider community to consider other potential uses for the site.

Tenders were recently called from landscape architecture consultants who will now work with secondary consultants to design and construct the facility. Geotechnical investigation is also progressing as is flooding and drainage assessment. Completion of works is expected late in 2019.

The project is jointly funded by Maitland City Council and the NSW Government through the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund.



*On track at Maitland Regional Sporting Complex*

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF MAITLAND

Local residents play a central role in shaping the future of Maitland. Identifying community priorities helps to drive the business of Council and set the course for planning through the Community Strategic Plan, Maitland +10.

Maitland +10 sets the direction for our city over the next decade and identifies key local and regional priorities. It provides the framework for planning and service delivery and guides other strategies like Council's four year Delivery Program and the annual Operational Plan.

Over the next few months, Council is seeking detailed community input on the things that matter to you, including the development of good infrastructure in Maitland, innovative programs and initiatives around taking care of our environment, better transport options in the region, and new and improved community and recreation services.

If you're keen to get involved and have your voice heard on different issues go to [maitlandyoursay.nsw.gov.au](http://maitlandyoursay.nsw.gov.au) or like Maitland Your Say on Facebook.

## NEW PITCH, BRIGHTER LIGHTS AND MORE SWINGS FOR LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

In the next 12 months there are a number of different projects that are planned to go ahead across the city. These include an \$85,000 canteen upgrade at Norm Champman Oval in Rutherford and a new roof and refurbishment worth \$24,500 at Tenambit Oval. There's also something for local cricketers to get excited about, with a new cricket pitch expected to go in at Beryl Humble Oval, Tenambit, with the aim to have it finished before the start of the cricket season.



*Beryl Humble Oval in Tenambit will soon have a new cricket pitch*

In addition to this, significant floodlight improvements are scheduled to go ahead at A&D Lawrence Oval in Thornton, Cooks Square Park in East Maitland and Fieldsend Oval in East Maitland, with a total cost of \$370,000.

Kids can also look forward to playground replacements worth \$64,000 each on Worcester Drive in East Maitland, at Porter Place in Lochinvar and at Brooklyn Park in East Maitland, all scheduled so that kids can be swinging and sliding by the end of the 2017/18 financial year.