

momentum

maitland city council news

Steamfest 30th anniversary

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Maitland Toyota Hunter Valley Steamfest, which has well and truly cemented itself as Australia's premier festival of steam. Returning on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April 2016 Steamfest celebrates Maitland's rich steam and industrial heritage.

The highlight of the 30th Anniversary program will be the Great Train Race Quad Run which has never been attempted before at Steamfest and will feature four steam locos running parallel from Waratah to Maitland in a race against Tiger Moths. Tickets for the event are now on sale with a number of exciting train journeys including the Silver Screen Steamer, a themed evening to Dungog's historic James Theatre, the popular Port Waratah Coal Loop Runs, the Barrington Bullet, Flip Fest Express kids' train, and many more.

A visit to Steamfest is a step back in time when steam machinery linked the industrial and technological ages. From small beginnings Steamfest has grown to become one of the key events in the Hunter, attracting more than 60,000 visitors each year from all over the world. Someone who has experienced 17 of them is Maitland Councillor and President of the Maitland Steam and Antique Machinery Association, Peter Garnham.

'Steamfest is a celebration of steam. We're very lucky in Maitland to be able to host such a fantastic event. When the last commercially operated steam hauled freight service in Australia closed in Maitland in 1983, a few people decided we should celebrate the steam era and its significance to the city and region, so that's how Steamfest started, and I don't think anyone at that time imagined we would be here 30 years on'.

The heart and soul of Steamfest is the assembly of impressive steam trains and this year will be no different. However, people will also be treated to a hive of activity at the Rally Ground with an array of traction and portable engines, antique machinery, as well as entertainment across the weekend such as the Show 'n' Shine, live music, kids activities, and more than 100 food and market stalls.

Maitland City Council's Event Coordinator Adam Franks says 'The weekend will be packed full of activities to keep everyone busy and ensure we pay homage to three decades of Steamfest. We hope everyone can join us for another amazing weekend'.

For more information and to buy your tickets for train journeys visit steamfest.com.au



3642 at Steamfest

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The start of 2016 has already been a busy time for Council, especially with the wet weather in January. In the coming months there is a lot happening at Council and around Maitland, including a range of major infrastructure works and a number of opportunities where Council will be asking for your input and ideas to help make living in our city better.

In fact, it is now easier than ever to get in contact with Council, share information and have your say on the many programs and projects being delivered throughout the year. Technology in particular has helped make this happen and in this edition of Momentum you'll find a range of ways Council has introduced technology to make it easier to connect with us.

*Until next time,
Mayor Peter Blackmore OAM*



NEW TECHNOLOGY HELPS COUNCIL TO DELIVER SERVICES ONLINE

The day to day workings of Council involves huge volumes of information, from processing development applications or scheduling infrastructure maintenance, to enquiries from residents or managing cemetery lots. Council is developing a new system to manage services and information across the organisation, and with almost 1.2 million documents stored in Council's existing system, this project is a massive undertaking.

The new system will allow Council to deliver some important online services, including application tracking, which is the first of these services that is now available on Council's website. Using Application Tracker you can look up Development Applications, Construction Certificates or Complying Development Certificates, and check the date an application was lodged or determined. At the moment only a limited amount of information is available, but more documentation and notices will be uploaded in the coming months, which will allow you to view and track the status of an application throughout the assessment process. Application Tracker is only the beginning, so keep an eye out for new online services coming soon.

Find Application Tracker online here
maitland.nsw.gov.au/PlanningDevel/DATracker



Have your say online or at one of Council's events

SHARE YOUR IDEAS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY

The voice of the community is a central part of major projects undertaken by Council. If you would like to share your ideas about Maitland's future then there are plenty of ways to get involved. Council's online engagement hub Maitland Your Say is the best starting place. You can view project plans and documents, share your views in discussion forums or provide feedback directly to Council using online surveys and polls.

To make it easy for citizens of all ages to get involved and to play a central role in the development of important projects, the Your Say team are introducing new online tools. Soon you will be able to share your ideas through an interactive ideas board, or you might be invited to take part in a quiz.

There are some major projects coming up that Council needs your help with. In March Council is embarking on a comprehensive review of the Community Strategic Plan, Maitland +10, to ensure that this plan continues to align with the community's needs.

In April you will also be able to share your ideas about the design of a new skatepark in Lawes Street, East Maitland. What features should this skatepark include, and how can Council make it the best possible facility for the skating community?

Join the conversation by visiting maitlandyoursay.com.au or contact Maitland Your Say by calling 4934 9896 or emailing yoursay@maitland.nsw.gov.au

NEW ONLINE PORTAL CHARTS MAITLAND'S COMMUNITY PROFILE

A new online portal is now available to help understand the unique characteristics of Maitland's demographic and economic profile. The portal provides the community an insight into the Local Government Area.

A REMPLAN product, the portal uses the 2006 and 2011 Census data to provide an understanding of the community's population, median age, birthplace, languages spoken, family compositions, work, housing and wellbeing information. Drawing on a range of other data sources from Council and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the portal also offers an insight into the commercial, investment and tourism activity within the city.

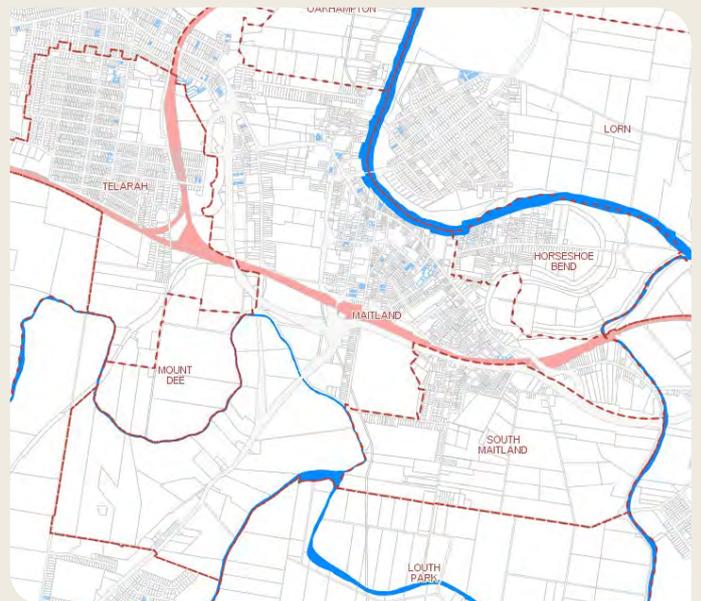
Taking a glance at Maitland, the city is currently home to more than 75,000 people with 63.9% aged between 16 – 64 years. Maitland supports over 22,000 jobs and has a gross regional product in excess of \$3.6 billion. More than 59% of the population is employed either in full or part time work with the largest employment industries being Manufacturing, Retail, Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance.

This is just a snapshot of the information available about the city. For more information visit maitland.nsw.gov.au/BusinessInvest

MAP YOUR PROPERTY ONLINE

Finding important details about your property is easy with the online mapping tool available on Council's website.

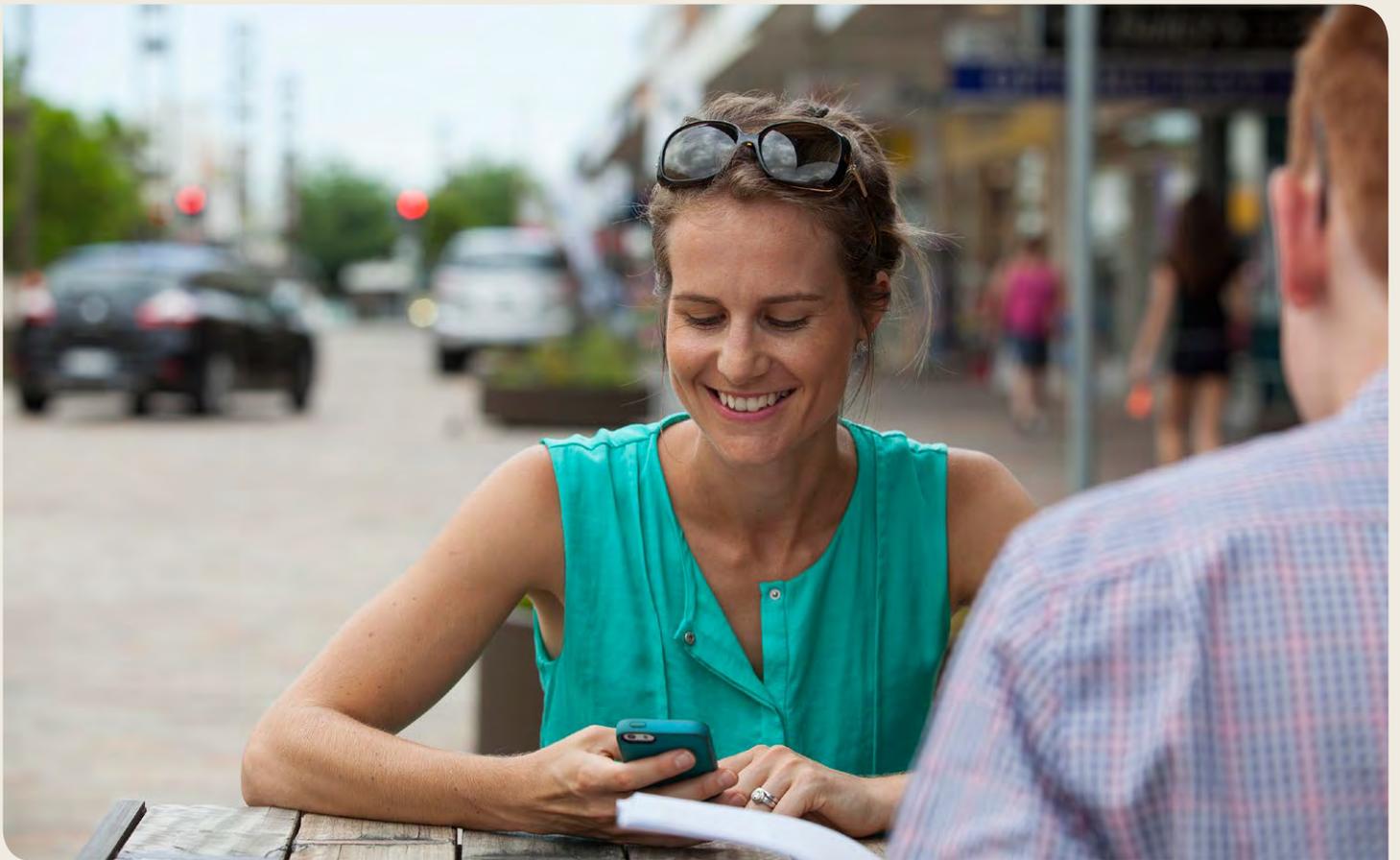
Online mapping was updated at the end of 2015 making it easier to use. With this tool you can search for a property by address or lot and Deposited Plan number. You can also overlay different layers of information allowing you to check if you're in a bush fire prone area, confirm which ward you're in for Council elections, use an aerial image to view your house, and much more.



Online map of Maitland

The online mapping tool is the first place to head if you're after information about your property. If what you're after is not included then there are links to help you find what you're looking for. Council is continually working to improve online mapping and to make more information accessible to the community. Keep an eye out for new features coming soon.

You can access online mapping on Council's website homepage.



Accessing free Wi-Fi at The Levee

FREE WI-FI ACROSS OUR CITY

Accessing the internet is a central part of modern life. To make getting online easier Council has a number of public spaces in Maitland where you can access free Wi-Fi.

The Wi-Fi at The Levee allows anyone visiting the Shared Zone to easily connect and browse the internet. Whether you're out shopping and want to post about your new purchases on social media, sitting down for an outside business meeting and need to check your email, or just waiting for some friends and have some time to browse the internet, Wi-Fi at The Levee is an easy and convenient way to get online.

Maitland's four library branches in Central Maitland, Thornton, East Maitland and Rutherford are also great places to access the internet with free public access to computers and Wi-Fi. If you have never accessed Wi-Fi before or are having trouble using a new device the Library staff are there to help. The free Wi-Fi also makes Maitland's libraries great places for community groups to meet, or somewhere quiet to escape and get some work or study done.

EXPLORING THE LIBRARY'S ONLINE COLLECTION

Did you know that you can access free online books, magazines, music, movies and heaps more through the Maitland City Library's website?

The Library's online collection has something for everyone including popular magazines like *Better Homes and Gardens* or *New Scientist*, music by the best artists from Mariah Carey to David Bowie, and a vast collection of audio and eBooks including bestselling fiction, non fiction, and biographies.

Visit maitland.nsw.gov.au/library and listen, watch and read some of the latest and most popular stories, anywhere, anytime.

HELP US BUILD A NEW WEBSITE

A good website should be easy to navigate, feature a simple design and contain the information you're looking for.

Council has started a project to develop a new website to make it easier to interact and do business with Council. Whilst the project is just beginning it is essential to have the community's input to make sure that it will meet everyone's needs. Whether you are a regular user of the website, use it on occasion, or have never seen it, your ideas are wanted.

There are a variety of ways to let us know what you would like to see on Council's website, including visiting maitlandyoursay.com.au to complete the online survey, which is also available as a hard copy at Council's Administration Building and Maitland Library branches.

A new website will make it simpler to find information about Council services such as waste collection, infrastructure works, mapping and development, rates, as well as providing a platform to enhance online functions.

Take a minute to find out more by visiting maitlandyoursay.com.au



Accessing online resources at a library branch

GETTING SOCIAL WITH COUNCIL

Social media is one of the easiest ways to connect with Council for regular posts and announcements about what's happening in the community. The Maitland City Facebook Page, LinkedIn page, and Twitter handle are the best places to find the latest Council news. The Maitland Your Say Facebook page is the place to share your ideas and keep up to date with Council projects. These are just some of the presences that Council uses to connect with people in Maitland.

The Levee Central Maitland Facebook page is a great place to find out what's new at The Levee, including stories about traders, all the plans for the Taste, Aroma and Riverlights festivals, and the latest updates about The Levee Development Component Two. Steamfest and Bitter and Twisted Boutique Beer Festival also both have their own Facebook pages with all the news about what you can expect at the events this year.

Don't miss out on the exciting programs and activities happening at Maitland Gaol and Maitland Regional Art Gallery who share upcoming events on their Facebook pages. If you have friends or family coming to visit, or you're looking for something local to do, the MyMaitland Facebook page is a great place to discover what's happening across the city.

When you like, share and comment about posts on social media pages Council gets a better idea about the information that is important to the community. Search for Council's social media profiles on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.



Connecting with Council via social media



Maitland Town Hall

NEW TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCED IN THE TOWN HALL

The refurbishment of the Town Hall is nearing completion. The project is modernising the venue with a range of new technological improvements that will make the space a great venue for the community well into the future. The improvements include new lighting and audio visual equipment, replacement of the stage rigging, construction of a new sound lock, and acoustic wall treatments. Modifications to the air conditioning, works to the sprung floor, building services upgrades and a general repaint of interior auditorium surfaces have also been undertaken. The \$2 million refurbishment to the auditorium is expected to be completed by the end of March.

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What's on in #MyMaitland

There is a lot happening around the city in autumn with everything from festivals to environmental programs. Head to mymaitland.com.au for more.

HUNTER VALLEY STEAMFEST 2016 SATURDAY 9 AND SUNDAY 10 APRIL

This year Maitland Toyota Steamfest celebrates its 30th anniversary and to mark this important occasion the event will feature the first ever Great Train Race Quad Run. The weekend will also feature a range of antique machinery, the Steamfest Show 'n' Shine, interactive displays and an array of entertainment and activities for the whole family.



MAITLAND TASTE SATURDAY 12 AND SUNDAY 13 MARCH

Explore the delights of local food and produce, from garden to the plate, at Maitland Taste. Held at The Levee the event will feature local and regional experts in the fields of cooking, edible gardening and biodiversity. It is also a great opportunity to sample some of the best street food and local wine the Hunter has to offer.



YOUTH WEEK FRIDAY 8 UNTIL SUNDAY 17 APRIL

Youth Week is the country's largest annual youth event and Maitland will celebrate with some great local activities and events. It will be an opportunity for young people in Maitland to express their ideas, act on issues that affect their lives, get creative, and have fun. For event details visit youthweek.nsw.gov.au



MATTRESS MUSTER SATURDAY 14 MAY 8.30am UNTIL 12.00pm

Drop off your old or unwanted mattresses and help reduced waste in Maitland. You can bring along up to four mattresses to be recycled free of charge. Please note, a mattress with ensemble base is counted as two items. Proof that you live in the Maitland Local Government Area is required. Drop your mattresses off at Council's Works Depot, Metford Road, East Maitland.

DRUMMUSTER FRIDAY 27 MAY

drumMuster is an easy and environmentally friendly way of disposing of eligible empty farming chemical containers. Containers will only be accepted if they carry the drumMuster logo and have been appropriately rinsed. If you would like to book a container drop off, contact Council's Works Depot on 4934 9611. For further information and requirements for cleaning containers visit drummuster.com.au



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEANOUT SATURDAY 4 JUNE 9.00am TO 3.30pm

Do you have any unwanted household chemicals lying around your home or garage? Household Chemical CleanOut is your opportunity to dispose of paints, oils, pool chemicals, household cleaners, pesticides, motor oils, fuels, and batteries in a safe and environmentally friendly way. The CleanOut is happening at the Transpacific Industries Depot at Kyle Street, Rutherford.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT MAITLAND GAOL

If your kids have always wanted to be an archaeologist for a day then head to Maitland Gaol where they can discover some intriguing artefacts found on the gaol site. There is also a captivating range of tours exploring what life was like for prisoners at the Gaol. Don't forget that throughout the school holidays adult tickets for tours are at kids prices. For the full program head to maitlandgaol.com.au



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT MAITLAND CITY LIBRARY

Kids can unleash their inner inventor or scientist at Maitland's library branches, with an engaging range of low cost and free activities exploring the amazing world of science. Kids can discover how people communicated before phones, invent their own musical instrument, or get involved in a mad scientist workshop. For the full holidays program visit maitland.nsw.gov.au/library

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT MRAG

Following on from the success of Free Art January the Maitland Regional Art Gallery's autumn school holiday program will feature accessible and creative learning activities for all ages. Drop in and let your kids explore their creative side throughout the holidays. Also in the school holidays is the return of The Olive Tree Markets to the Art Gallery's gardens on 23 April. For more information visit mrag.org.au



LOOK WHO'S TALKING IN MAITLAND

From the inspiring to the thought provoking, this year's Look Who's Talking program is packed full of some great speakers. Highlights include author Helen Garner, former Foreign Minister and Premier of NSW Bob Carr, broadcaster Kerry O'Brien, The Rosie Project's Graeme Simsion, and award winning authors Don Watson and Kate Forsyth. The program also features a great collection of local authors, history talks and wellbeing workshops. To see the full 2016 program visit maitland.nsw.gov.au/library



Major capital works happening in your area

The coming months will see the completion of a broad range of projects throughout Maitland.

NEW NETBALL BUILDING IN MAITLAND PARK

The Maitland District Netball Association and their more than 2,000 members have a brand new building in Maitland Park. This \$1.3 million facility features a canteen, change rooms, administration areas, first aid room, umpires area, storage facilities and covered awning areas providing much needed shade and shelter. The finishing touches are being made on the building ready for the start of the netball season in April.

Maitland District Netball Association President Kim Starkey is keen to move into the new building. 'Netball is a team sport and this project has been a great team effort. We are very excited as we begin a new chapter and to be moving into the new building. I believe that the facilities will help our Association to thrive in the community and well into the future'.

It is some of the simple but practical new features that are particularly important to the Association, such as ample storage and large windows which enable the majority of courts to be viewed by club officials.

The new building appropriately reflects the calibre of events hosted at the venue, which include the NSW State Championships, and its position as an important regional facility.

The project was funded by Maitland City Council with a significant contribution from the Maitland Netball Association and the NSW State Government.



Maitland Park netball courts



Work on Tocal Road culvert

MAJOR CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON RECREATION FACILITIES

Council has awarded the tender for the construction of the new 25 metre heated indoor pool, with work scheduled to commence in April. The bulk of work will occur during the off season to limit any impact on pool users. It is expected that the new indoor pool will open towards the end of the 2017 swimming season.

Demolition of the existing grandstand at No.1 Sportsground is scheduled to commence in the first half of 2016. Following the demolition, work will begin on the new grandstand. The project is due to be completed in mid 2017.

NORM CHAPMAN OVAL

Council has finished the rehabilitation work at Norm Chapman Oval. The oval has been completely returfed and a new drain system has been constructed, including the installation of more than 530 metres of new drainage pipes and 220 metres of collector pipes. The oval is expected to be ready for the start of the soccer season, once the new grass has had an opportunity to grow.

AN END TO APRIL 2015 STORM REPAIR WORKS

The last of the major road works to be undertaken following the damage caused by the April 2015 storm is underway. Council's contractors are currently working on repairs to the culvert on Tocal Road in Mindaribba. An excavator and concrete cutting saw were used to remove the affected sections of the culvert. Now the demolition is complete, the concrete sections are being reformed and replaced restoring the culvert to its original condition. The road and guardrail will then be reinstated above the culvert. Work is expected to be completed by mid to late April.

Around \$1.8 million has already been spent to repair damage caused to roads around Maitland. The last of the building repairs have now finished with work on the East Maitland Community Centre being completed by the end of February.



Artist's impression of new indoor pool



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Disclaimer: This newsletter has been prepared by Maitland City Council from information available as at 16-2-2016. 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.