

MAITLAND NEWS

# momentum

Australia Day  
award winners

Autumn events

Major projects





**Mayor Philip Penfold**

## Mayor's message

It's been a great start to 2025, with a record-breaking crowd of 16,000 people lining The Levee to ring in the new year. We also hosted a fantastic Australia Day celebration at Maitland Park and two community events at Harold Gregson Reserve: a night of live music at Summer Night Sounds and our Maitland Roller Disco. We have plenty more coming up in our events schedule, including our biggest flagship event, Steamfest which returns 12 and 13 April, before our new winter event, 'Luminous' in June.

I'm proud to say we delivered some major projects for our community this summer including a \$26 million upgrade to the Raymond Terrace Road and Government Road intersection at Thornton, and the new Gillieston Heights Skate Park and Playspace next to Roy Jordan Oval.

Work is also progressing on the new Melville Ford Bridge which is due to finish early spring, the new Thornton Skate Park and upgrades to Maitland Resource Recovery Facility.

Thank you to everyone who helped us mark the 70th anniversary of the 1955 flood in February. It was a significant event for our community, and we were proud to recognise this important milestone.

Philip

Connect with your Councillors



## Meet this year's Australia Day award winners

On Australia Day, Maitland Town Hall played host to our annual citizenship ceremony, where we welcomed more than 40 new citizens who hailed from as far and as wide as Norway, New Zealand, Nepal and the Netherlands.

As is tradition, we also honoured some of Maitland's best and fairest with our Australia Day awards. Read on to learn about our new Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year, and to view the full list of winners, visit [mait.city/AusDayWinners2024](https://mait.city/AusDayWinners2024)



### Citizen of the Year Greg Queenan

Musician and mentor John Gregory 'Greg' Queenan was named Maitland's 2024 Citizen of the Year for his exceptional community contribution over the past five decades. Greg has worked with the City of Maitland Pipes and Drums for 50 years, been a member of Maitland Lions Club since 1984 and has previously been awarded the City of Maitland Service Award.



### Young Citizen of the Year Imogen Brownlee

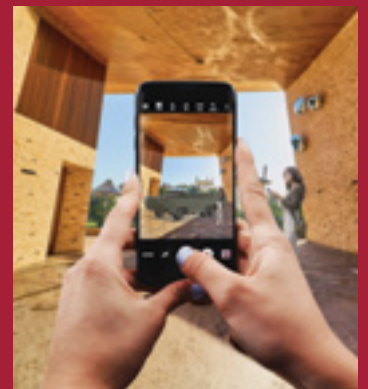
Sixteen-year-old Imogen Brownlee was named Young Citizen of the Year for her remarkable impact with clubs like City United District Cricket and Thornton Netball Club. As both an athlete and a mentor to others, Imogen's a leader to her peers, fostering teamwork and encouraging other young girls to take up sport.

## Beyond the Flood Levels

Our new *Beyond the Flood Levels* heritage walk delves into recorded history and explores the human stories surrounding the flood events that have shaped Maitland since European settlement.

Using augmented reality at each stop along the walk, you will see archival imagery and digital recreations of flood scenes, blended with local landmarks such as Maitland Town Hall. With your smartphone or tablet as your window into the past, get ready to venture 'beyond the flood levels'.

Pick up a walk brochure at the Maitland Visitor Information Centre or scan the QR code to access the Maitland Walks app.



# Join the conversation on what matters

Effective engagement allows communities to be active participants in shaping their own future and play a part in positive change. Join the conversation and receive updates on topics important to you at [yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au)

## What we heard: Closing the loop on recent engagement

### Maitland Park Playspace

More than 400 people shared their ideas for the expanded playspace, with over 70 per cent of respondents supportive of our concept plan and many in favour of tripling the size of the playspace with water play and adventure play elements. We're currently seeking funding for this project and will continue developing the final design.

### Communication and Engagement Strategy and Community Strategic Plan

We've wrapped up engagement for our Communication and Engagement Strategy and our Community Strategic Plan, *Maitland's Future*.

These key strategies will help shape the direction of our city, allowing us to continue building a vibrant, connected and thriving community. Your feedback will now be reviewed before both strategies are finalised and presented to Council.

To find out more about our shared vision for creating a connected city with thriving communities, visit [yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au)



## Momentum eNewsletter

From major works and project updates to what's on, receive the latest news direct to your inbox each month with our Momentum eNewsletter. Subscribe at [mait.city/MomentumENews](https://mait.city/MomentumENews)

## Most engaged with projects on the Maitland Your Say website

### Walka Water Works



**600+**  
people listened to



**77%**  
were Maitland residents



**2**  
Community Liaison  
Group meetings

### Maitland Park Playspace



**400+**  
people listened to



**488**  
contributions through survey  
and pop ups



**70%**  
supportive of concept design

### Seniors Festival 2025



**70**  
people listened to



**102**  
contributions



We've put together a calendar of events based on this feedback, which you can view and download on our website: [mait.city/SeniorsFestival2025](https://mait.city/SeniorsFestival2025)



# Major projects

## Melville Ford Bridge update

Works have now resumed, and in the coming months, crews will finalise the piers and abutments, build the new bridge deck, and complete the roadworks approaching both ends of the bridge. The current bridge will be closed to traffic until the work is finished in early spring. Adverse weather and river conditions may impact construction timeframes. In addition to the project, Council is exploring the possibility of renaming the bridge to honour former Maitland MP Milton Morris AO. For updates on the project, visit [mait.city/MelvilleFordBridge](https://mait.city/MelvilleFordBridge)



## Government Road, Raymond Terrace Road intersection

Work on the Government Road and Raymond Terrace Road intersection at Thornton is now complete. Jointly funded by Council and the NSW Government, the \$26 million project has seen a new four-way intersection created, traffic lights installed and both roads widened to two-lanes each direction. It has taken an extended timeframe to complete this project due to frequent weather delays and supply chain issues, and we thank the community for your patience. For more, visit [mait.city/ThorntonNorthIntersection](https://mait.city/ThorntonNorthIntersection)

## Gillieston Heights Skate Park and Playspace

The new million-dollar skate park and playspace at Gillieston Heights is officially open. Jointly funded by Council and the NSW Government's Places to Play program, the new skate park features a flow bowl with a key hole transition, waterfall to a deep bowl and a mogul. The existing playspace has also been upgraded with new equipment while a new playspace has been constructed, including nature and water play elements. New footpaths, picnic tables and shade have been added as well. For more, visit [mait.city/GilliestonHeightsSkatePark](https://mait.city/GilliestonHeightsSkatePark)



## Walka Water Works

Last year, the Principal Planning Consultant, Ramboll Group, reconnected with the community to hear your vision and ideas for enhanced uses and the future of Walka Water Works. Your feedback is helping to inform the Master Plan and Plan of Management for the remediation, restoration and revitalisation of the site. There will be another opportunity to have your say when the documents go on public exhibition. Sign up to receive project updates at [mait.city/WalkaWaterWorks](https://mait.city/WalkaWaterWorks)

# Ready, steady, grow: How you can help make Maitland greener this autumn

It's time to 'grow native'! This autumn, you're invited to roll up your sleeves and pitch in as we cultivate areas of native habitat across Maitland. From your backyard to the lush green spaces nestled in our suburbs, help us make Maitland greener and more resilient.

## Seedling giveaways

Get them before they're gone! Drop in and pick up free native shrubs and groundcovers suitable for your backyard, with shrubs typically growing up to three or four metres tall.

Each household can collect up to six seedlings for one property, while stocks last. Proof of Maitland residency is required.

**5 April from 9am**  
**Maitland Netball Courts**  
**36/44 Park Street, Maitland**

**20 May from 9.30am**  
**All library branches**  
**Maitland, East Maitland,**  
**Rutherford and Thornton**

## Community planting events

What better way to reconnect with our environment than swapping your smartphone for a native seedling and trowel?

Our biodiversity experts will bring the tools and the seedlings; you'll just need to pack a hat, drink, gloves, wear enclosed footwear, and be ready to get stuck in.

**13 April from 9am**  
**Lorn foreshore**  
**Car park at the end of The Esplanade**

**17 April from 9am**  
**Beryl Humble Oval**  
**Metford Road,**  
**Tenambit**

## Support your local Landcare group

Did you know that Maitland is home to five Landcare groups? These volunteer groups meet regularly to improve our local bushland, and are a great way to give back to Mother Nature through weed control, planting and revegetation, and more.

For more information and contact details for your local Landcare group, visit [mait.city/Landcare](http://mait.city/Landcare)



# FOGO IS COMING

**STARTS 30 JUNE 2025**



**YOUR GREENER GREEN BIN** service will send all your Food Organics and Garden Organics (**FOGO**) to a **GREENER** future, which means less emissions, less landfill and more compost. Your red bin collection schedule stays the same.



# WHAT'S ON

## Burton Automotive Hunter Valley Steamfest

**Maitland Station**  
**12 and 13 April**

Hunter Valley Steamfest returns to Maitland this April with two bumper days of family-friendly entertainment. Book a train journey to one of many destinations across the Hunter, get up close and personal with antique steam machinery at Garnham Grounds, pick up a bargain at the Railway Street Market, or hop on an amusement ride or three at the Station Precinct.

On Sunday, check out the annual Show 'n' Shine, showcasing over 500 classic cars, accompanied by food stalls and live entertainment for the whole family to enjoy. Don't miss out.

Tickets and more information found at [steamfest.com.au](http://steamfest.com.au)



## Luminous

**The Levee Central Maitland**  
**20 and 21 June**

As the longest night of the year falls, join us for Luminous, a magical celebration of fire, light and mysterious wonder that is set to conclude with a dazzling fireworks display. Keep your eyes, ears and other senses peeled for more exciting information about Luminous, our latest annual event, as they come to light over the coming months.



### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land within the Maitland Local Government Area. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and future with a spiritual connection to these lands.

### Disclaimer

This newsletter has been prepared by Maitland City Council from information available as at 14 February 2025. 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.

## For your calendar



*My Message is Love*  
Maitland Regional  
Art Gallery  
1 March to 1 June



Networking IWD morning tea  
Maitland Town Hall  
7 March



Seniors Festival  
3 to 16 March

- Seniors Lunch and Show  
Maitland Town Hall  
Sunday 9 March
- Time to Shine: Seniors  
Discover & Connect Expo  
Maitland Town Hall  
Saturday 15 March



*Singing in Harmony*  
Maitland Regional  
Art Gallery  
8 March to 22 June



Street Eats – Morpeth  
Ray Lawler Reserve  
14 March



Street Eats – Rutherford  
Norm Chapman Oval  
21 March



*Brenda Clouten Memorial  
Art Scholarship – 20 year  
anniversary exhibition*  
Maitland Regional  
Art Gallery  
22 March to 15 June



Street Eats – Gillieston  
Heights  
Gillieston Heights  
Community Hub  
4 April



Youth Week  
Various locations  
9 to 17 April



Newcastle Jets vs Central  
Coast Mariners  
Maitland Regional  
Sportsground  
19 April



Street Eats – Chisholm  
Whitewater Adventure Park  
16 May



Street Eats – Maitland  
Harold Gregson Reserve  
30 May