

MAITLAND NEWS

momentum



Meet your
councillors

What's on
this summer

Major projects



Mayor Philip Penfold

Meet the Mayor

First elected as a councillor in 2008 and mayor since 2021, Mayor Philip Penfold was born and raised in Maitland.

His priorities include sound financial management, a focus on sporting and recreation infrastructure, and improvements to roads and traffic congestion.

‘What I love about Maitland is its proximity to everything. It’s 30 minutes to the beach and the vineyards or 90 minutes to Sydney. The lifestyle that comes with that is unparalleled. Beyond this, the people of Maitland are its best quality.’

Mayor’s message

I’m very proud to have been returned as Mayor of Maitland with a record result and I’m honoured to continue representing the people of our great city. I congratulate our six re-elected and six new councillors, who I commit to work with to continue to achieve for our community. We have a younger, diverse group of councillors who have come together to serve the people of Maitland. As Mayor, I’m determined to see continued investment in our roads and recreation infrastructure, with funding allocations that better align with community priorities. I’ll work hard to deliver this over the next term of council.

Over the coming months, we’ll be working together to deliver several major playground upgrades across the city including a new playground at Metford Recreation Reserve, new amenities at Cooks Square Park, East Maitland, a new skate park and playspace at Roy Jordan Oval, Gillieston Heights and new play equipment at Ernie Jurd Oval, Largs. As we look ahead to summer and the exciting plans we have in store, I’d like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2025 bring even bigger and better things for you all.

Your new council

Following the 2024 NSW Local Government election, we welcomed six new councillors: Amelia Atkinson, Race Barstow, Don Ferris, Ken Jordan, Warrick Penfold and Ben Worth.

Keep reading to meet your councillors and know who is representing you. For complete profiles and contact details, scan the QR code.



Meet your councillors

WARD 1



Cr Amelia Atkinson

After growing up in Paterson, Cr Amelia Atkinson first got to know Maitland when establishing a retail store in 2007.

With her two young boys now starting school, Amelia says she is passionate about making early learning accessible to everyone and her role on the P&C committee has helped bring her closer to the Maitland community.

‘I want to help shape a city that my kids can benefit from; we need to be looking long term at social infrastructure and investing in spaces like our regional sportsground and our art gallery.’

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Cr Sally Halliday

Cr Sally Halliday has lived in Maitland since 1998 and has deep family ties to the area. As a single mother of two, she’s active in many local community and charity organisations like the East Maitland Lions Club and the Maitland and District Historical Society.

Passionate about community service and preserving Maitland’s history, Sally is dedicated to making decisions that benefit the majority and is not afraid to take a stand when needed.

‘Being a councillor is an honour and a way to contribute to making Maitland an even better place.’

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Cr Ken Jordan

Cr Ken Jordan, originally from Osterley, grew up on a family farm and was actively involved in the Maitland Police Boys Club. He began his career as a fitter and turner at BHP Newcastle Steelworks before transitioning to education, spending 17 years teaching at All Saints' College. Now the Assistant Principal at Hunter Trade College, Ken is dedicated to equipping students with valuable trade skills.

After 17 years on Port Stephens Council, Ken moved to Maitland with his family, where he is excited to bring his extensive local government experience to Maitland City Council.

'I thoroughly enjoyed my time on council and look forward to making a meaningful impact here in Maitland.'

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WARD 2



Cr Race Barstow

After growing up in a small town in Massachusetts, USA and immigrating to Australia in the late '90s, Cr Race Barstow chose Maitland as the ideal place to raise her family and relocated here in 2002.

A first-term councillor, Race is passionate about providing a fair voice for the people of Maitland and helping form an informed community.

'Maitland has a unique ecosystem where you can live in the community without ever having to go outside of it, but within a matter of minutes be in the Hunter Valley vineyards or the city of Newcastle. It's beautifully situated.'

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Cr Kristy Flannery

Second-term councillor Kristy Flannery is Rutherford raised and describes Maitland as 'an ideal place to grow up'. She's been involved in the PCYC, Maitland Mustangs and West Maitland Football Club,



and became a councillor to help shape the city that is part of her family's future.

Family is a big part of Kristy's life and something she values.

'We all live close, about five minutes from each other, which is the best part about Maitland. It's all so close and convenient.'

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Cr Mitchell Griffin

Cr Mitchell Griffin, who is now in his third council term, was born in Morpeth and has lived in Metford with his wife, two sons and two dogs for over 15 years.

Mitchell is a foundation member of H2O Baptist Church in Thornton, a patron of the Maitland Branch of the Northern NSW JP Association and Maitland District Historical Society member. He regularly volunteers as an official at Supercar events and the annual Australian Postie Bike GP.

'I love the diversity of Maitland. We've got people from a wide range of backgrounds and diverse opinions and beliefs.'

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WARD 3



Cr Bill Hackney

Deputy Mayor

The youngest of seven siblings, Cr Bill Hackney grew up in Louth Park. A self-employed carpenter with over 35 years in construction and business ownership, Bill is a keen advocate for community safety.

He is also passionate about recreational sports, having worked on committees with the East Maitland Griffins and the Maitland Pickers.

'I love Maitland's rich heritage, its culture and its many different landscapes. We must cherish our past but embrace what the future holds.'

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Cr Ben Whiting

Ben Whiting, a fourth-term councillor, was raised in the Green Hills area of Maitland before working abroad. He later returned with his wife to raise their two daughters.

Ben is a special needs teacher and is actively engaged in his local parish, playing hockey with the Maitland Rams and is involved with the Bruce Street Community Hall.

‘Maitland has a longstanding history as a key city in New South Wales, and it’s vital to maintain our identity and provide access to local facilities.’

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Cr Ben Worth

First-term councillor Ben Worth was born and raised in Maitland, completing his schooling at Grossmann High School. Having played everything from rugby league to hockey, Ben is an ardent sportsman and has a soft spot for the East Maitland Griffins.

As the youngest voice in the chamber, Ben says he is looking forward to being a strong, relevant and relatable voice for the young people of Maitland.

‘I love Maitland’s potential for growth. I love the history and the way we continue to respect and build on that heritage.’

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WARD 4



Cr Don Ferris

Cr Don Ferris grew up in a small town north of Tamworth and has called Maitland home since 2009. He’s an avid sportsman, having been involved in several local clubs over the years, and is eager to see improvements to Maitland’s sports and recreation facilities.

Having previously served one term as a councillor, Don has a

driving passion for biodiversity conservation and Landcare.

‘Maitland is the beating heart of the Hunter Valley and we are very lucky to live here. I want to see Maitland continue to thrive and grow sustainably.’

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Cr Warrick Penfold

First-term councillor Warrick Penfold was raised in Maitland, attending both Maitland Public School and Maitland Boys High School, and has worked as a mortgage broker for the last 20 years.

A mental health advocate with a strong interest in Maitland’s history and heritage, Warrick decided to run for council so he could make a difference.

‘I love the diversity of Maitland. We’re close enough to take a day trip to the vineyards or Sydney, but slightly removed from the hustle and bustle of the big city. It’s the perfect mix of urban and rural life.’

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Cr Mike Yarrington

Now in his third term, Cr Mike Yarrington has lived in Maitland for more than 20 years and owns a trophy and promotions business in Rutherford.

Mike is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Maitland Sunrise, Maitland City Choir and is dedicated to driving positive change for the city.

‘I still love the fact that Maitland has a country feel, even though it’s becoming bigger and busier. I want to see improvements to Maitland’s road network, particularly around Thornton and I want to see our infrastructure development keep pace with our growing population.’

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Want to hear more from Council?

Packed with the latest Council news, our Momentum eNewsletter is a great way to stay in the loop. Subscribe to receive monthly updates in your inbox at [**mait.city/MomentumENews**](mailto:mait.city@momentumenews.com.au)

Major projects

Work on the new Melville Ford Bridge is underway

Construction has started on the new and improved Melville Ford Bridge. Thanks to the hard work of Council staff, an enhanced design has been locked in, elevating the new bridge 6.7m higher than the existing bridge with a separated pedestrian walkway. The bridge will be closed until Friday 20 December 2024 to facilitate project works. For ongoing updates, visit

mait.city/Melville-Ford-Bridge



Skate parks: Largs and Gillieston Heights

We've recently taken the wraps off the new Largs Skate Park, funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program. Now open to the public, the park features a pump track, half pipe, seating, drinking fountains and shelters. Work is also underway on the new Gillieston Heights Skate Park and playspace at Roy Jordan Oval. Funded by Council and the NSW Government, work is due to be finished by the end of the year.

For more information, visit

mait.city/4dmLzyA



New amenities for Cooks Square Park

We're delivering a new and improved amenities building at Cooks Square Park, East Maitland. More modern, accessible and gender inclusive, the new facilities will better serve local clubs like Maitland FC. Construction is now underway, with the new building set to open early next year.



Total Road upgrades

We've completed a \$1.9 million upgrade to Tocal Road, Bolwarra Heights. Funded by the NSW Government, work included widening and reconstructing the road to improve traffic flow. Further resurfacing work will take place in the coming months to benefit the road in the long term. Meanwhile, work on nearby Lang Drive was also recently completed as was Anambah Road, Anambah.

WHAT'S ON

Summer in Maitland

Dive into Maitland's diverse and vibrant summer season of events and activities. There's something for everyone, from festive Christmas celebrations to New Year's Eve parties and Australia Day gatherings.

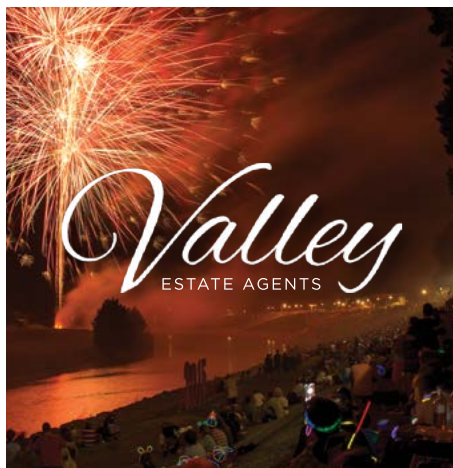
Visit mait.city/whatson and explore the events, bookings and must-see experiences to plan your perfect summer.



Maitland New Year's Eve celebrations presented by Valley Estate Agents

Celebrate the end of 2024 with us on the scenic banks of the Hunter River in Maitland this New Year's Eve. This family-friendly event has something for everyone, including free entertainment, live music, and a variety of delicious food and dessert trucks. The night will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display that will light up the night sky from 9.00pm.

For more details, visit mait.city/WhatsOnSummer



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 8 November 2024. 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.



Twitcher
Maitland Regional
Art Gallery
12 October to 16 February



Tjukurpa - Handle It
Maitland Regional
Art Gallery
9 November to 9 March



Free Santa Photos
The Levee Central Maitland
28 November
to 21 December



Literature Live - Women
Writing Crime
East Maitland Library
6 December



Household Chemical
CleanOut
Cleanaway Depot,
41 Kyle Street, Rutherford
7 December



Christmas Movie Night
Maitland Regional
Sportsground
7 December



A Merry Little Christmas
The Levee Central Maitland
14 December



Maitland New Year's Eve
presented by Valley
Estate Agents
The Levee Central Maitland
31 December



Australia Day in
Maitland Park
26 January



Street Eats Thornton
Wirraway Park, Thornton
7 February



Harold Gregson live
music event
Harold Gregson Reserve
8 February