



DECEMBER 2019

Maitland Matters

A NEWSLETTER FROM JENNY AITCHISON MP ■ YOUR LOCAL STATE MEMBER FOR MAITLAND

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GRANTING YOUR WISH



Three successful applications received a combined total of \$295,000 in the inaugural round of My Community Project grants.



Jenny Aitchison MP celebrates Metford's good news with students and staff.

The projects include a Precious Plastic recycling workshop in Chisholm, a Community Play Space in Metford, and an Outdoor Event Space in Maitland.

My Community Grants will be allocated again in 2020 so it's worth having a think now about your project. Successful projects will align with one or more of the six program categories: accessible communities, cultural communities, healthy communities, liveable communities, revitalising communities and safe communities.

Applicants for Community Building Partnership grants are on tenterhooks with fingers and toes crossed. I am now in the process of assessing the 2019 submissions from those who'd like a share in Maitland's \$300,000 allocation.

We'll continue to work through the eligibility, assessment and approval process between now and February, and successful projects will be announced in late March next year.

I wish all applicants the best of luck.

Don't forget - the 2020 round of Community Building Partnership grants will open in the first half of the year, so get your applications ready now! Unsuccessful applicants from the 2019 round can reapply at that time.

And for our sporty types - don't forget, we have a Facebook group for organisations that would like to stay abreast of grant opportunities and we will be holding a round table early in the new year. If you'd like to be part of either, or both, please email me at maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Season's Greetings

It's hard to believe that another year is over. And what a dramatic - and tragic - end to the year it has been.

I send my best wishes to the many people here in the Hunter, and across the State, who are experiencing drought and fires, and I thank those in our community who have fought hard and given generously to help others.

I also acknowledge many battles we have fought here in Maitland - the most recent being around the removal of jobs in the central business district. Once again we have proven the unity of Maitland and the formidable force we can be to ensure that the Government hears us.

I wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to representing you in the Parliament of NSW throughout the year ahead.

As always, if you need assistance with any State matter, please contact me at maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call 4933 1617.

Jenny

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR A WONDERFUL 2020!



RAILWAY STATION ROUNABOUT TRAFFIC LIGHTS SWITCHED ON

The traffic chaos around the Maitland Railway Station roundabout still ranks as the number one problem that drives frustrated motorists to call my office.

I've heard it called 'half a solution' more times than I can count, and feedback from the streets is that the Government's latest attempted fix is possibly worse than nothing.

In October the Government belatedly switched on new lights in the first of a two-stage process that will eventually involve closing the Walker Street exit and installing more traffic lights at Louth Park Road.

I agree with those who have contacted me to say that traffic from Church Street is also a significant issue. Even the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads seems to be coming round to the idea that this entry to the roundabout is a significant contributor to the issues we're experiencing.

In October I used a Parliamentary Question on Notice to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads whether Roads and Maritime Services had made any preparations for a traffic control light to be installed on the Church Street entry.

The response I received in late November conceded that the lights were being considered as part of the Stage Two works, but that Transport for NSW was unable to provide a timeframe on the completion of works.

I believe that any solution must take into account existing traffic flows, changing suburban populations and peak time pressures. We don't want any more haphazard, half-baked solutions.

I will therefore continue to call on the NSW Government to investigate these matters thoroughly before developing a well-thought solution that will serve our city and its motorists now and into the future.

STILL NO GUARANTEE ON MAITLAND PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS



The NSW Government has spent the second half of the year desperately trying to backtrack on its sneaky plans to move 200 jobs to Newcastle.



I first got wind of these plans in May when the Government briefed staff at Minerals House on High Street about their impending move to a Super Hub building that is currently under construction.

These fears were confirmed when I obtained documents under Freedom of Information laws that proved the Government had well-advanced plans to shift Maitland public sector jobs to a new Newcastle hub.

Maitland Business Chamber and I have since been campaigning, here in our town and in the Parliament, to stop the jobs from being stripped from our town and our economy.

We've gathered thousands of signatures from people who agree that we need to keep those jobs here in Maitland.

Meanwhile, Minister Stokes has denied that he'd ever heard of the plans, and Deputy Premier Barilaro says the jobs won't move while he's a Minister. Given the Berejiklian Government's track record on promise-breaking we are not convinced.

We will continue to hold the Government to account on this issue and are working on ensuring that other public sector jobs in Maitland, such as those in Revenue NSW, are protected.

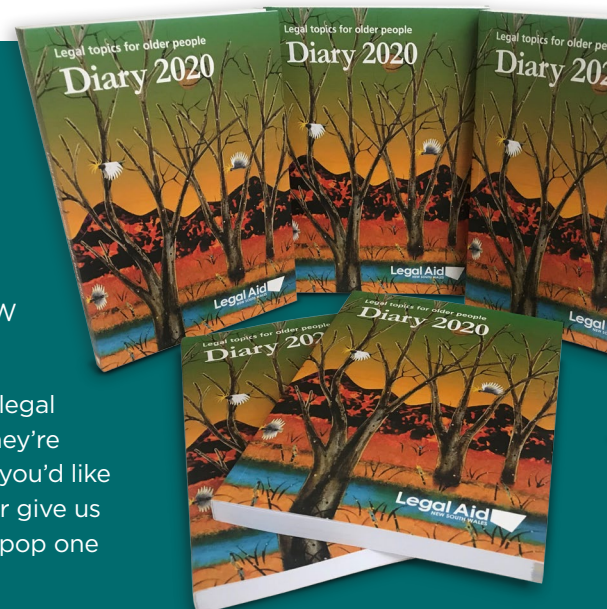
If you have not yet signed the petition, please do so. This will allow us to have a petition debate on the issue in parliament.

Please contact my office on 4933 1617 or at maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au if you'd like a copy.

NEW YEAR, NEW DIARY

Have you got your 2020 Diary yet? I have many Legal Aid NSW diaries to give away.

While these have lots of useful legal information for older people, they're handy for just about anyone. If you'd like one, please stop by my office or give us a call on 4933 1617 and we can pop one in the mail for you.





Colin, Darren, Wendy and Christine Foster with Jenny Aitchison MP, centre.

DOUBLE-CENTURY OF SERVICE

Four Maitland Justices of the Peace recorded an incredible 50 years of service in 2019.



Jenny Aitchison MP, Ted Thornburrow JP, Trevor Crouch JP and Attorney General the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP.

A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK

As the Member for Maitland, one of my great privileges is the opportunity to formally recognise people in our community who excel - by giving generously of their time to others, by performing services that benefit our community, or by personally achieving on the sporting stage.

I recently had the honour of presenting Metford's Darren Foster with a NSW Government Community Service Award in recognition of his commitment to improving the quality of life of others in our area.

The occasion was made even more special thanks to the presence of Mr Foster's wife Christine, his parents Wendy and Colin, along with close friend Peter Sewell and his wife, Ingrid.

Mr Foster works at Mai Wel with people with a disability and also volunteers his time helping an informal network of older people. He is a long-serving Justice of the Peace and current President of the Northern NSW Federation of Justices of the Peace.

He's an avid fly-fisherman and president of the Hunter Fly Fishing Club. Plus, he's a regular and committed blood donor!

Mr Foster received a lovely trophy and framed certificate in recognition of his service to our community.

Congratulations to Douglas Berthon, of East Maitland; William (Bill) Hopkins OAM, of Metford; Edward (Ted) Thornburrow, of Bolwarra Heights; and Trevor Crouch, of Rutherford.

I was able to join Mr Thornburrow and Mr Crouch at a special ceremony at Parliament, hosted by Attorney General the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP.

Mr Hopkins and Mr Berthon were unable to attend this ceremony in Sydney but I was able to host a special afternoon tea for Mr Hopkins at my office in Maitland.

Mr Hopkins is a stalwart of the Maitland community who was honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 for his service to industrial relations and the community.



Maitland MP Jenny Aitchison with Bill Hopkins JP OAM.

Mr Berthon was sadly unable to attend either celebration but has received a certificate commemorating his achievement.

Thank you all for your incredible commitment and service.

BECOME A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

A Justice of the Peace is a trusted, honest and impartial volunteer who has been appointed by the Governor of NSW primarily to witness statutory declarations or affidavits, and certify copies of original documents. Justices of the Peace come from all walks of life and perform an important service to their communities. JPs must be at least 18 years of age, be Australian citizens or eligible to vote, be of good character, not be undischarged bankrupts, and be nominated by a Member of Parliament. The application process has changed in 2019 and must be lodged online. It includes verification of eligibility and completion of a JP Knowledge Test. For more information, visit www.jp.nsw.gov.au

CELEBRATING OUR GREAT SPORTS



It was my great pleasure to present junior athletes Claudia Hughes, of Gillieston Heights, and Tyler Trethan, of Thornton, with 2019 State Representative certificates for representing New South Wales in national sporting events.

It was lovely to formally recognise Claudia's achievements at an afternoon tea that was attended by her proud parents Anthony and Ann, and her brothers Joshua and Bailey.

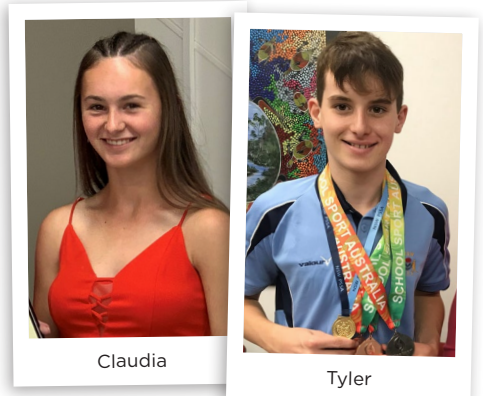
Claudia, whose specialty events are the 400m hurdles and 400m run, competed at the 2019 National Championships as an under-18 but recently celebrated her birthday and has stepped up to the open ranks. She is now training under a dedicated hurdles coach and has her sights set on the 2020 National Championships.

Tyler, his mother Kristy, father Greg and brother Flynn also had

a celebratory afternoon tea at my office, during which Tyler showed me his medals and I was able to present him with his certificate.

Tyler, who has been swimming since the age of two, took gold in 50m breaststroke at the Primary Schools Sport Association NSW Championship in April before going on to represent NSW at the national championships.

At the nationals, in August, he won bronze in the 50m breaststroke and claimed a silver and a bronze for his breaststroke performances in the Medley and Mixed medley relays.



Claudia

Tyler

Tyler trains six days and now has his sights set on the 2020 national championships in Brisbane and, long-term, the Paris Olympic Games.

If you know someone who has represented our State in a national sporting event, please help me acknowledge their achievements.

Email me at maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call my office on 4933 1617.

RESULTS ALMOST IN

The wait is almost over for those Maitland students who sat a Higher School Certificate exam in 2019, with results being released on 17 December.

I congratulate each and every person who was part of this year's cohort of more than 75,000, students. An estimated 67,915 of you will complete your HSC program in 2019, marking an end to 13 years of primary and secondary schooling.

Well done! Remember that there are many pathways to success. Whatever you do next, I send my absolute best wishes.



Visit me at my office

2/12 Elgin Street
Maitland NSW 2320

Call 4933 1617 for an appointment

JENNY AITCHISON MP
STATE MEMBER FOR MAITLAND

MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL

Maitland City Council looks after local roads, rubbish collection, rates, sporting fields, parks, footpaths, street lighting, residential and commercial development, council bylaws, maintenance of parks and gardens, animal control and signage.

IF YOU HAVE A COUNCIL ISSUE, IT'S BEST TO CALL COUNCIL DIRECTLY ON 4934 9700.

Record the event number you are given for future reference.