



# Maitland Matters

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

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## Fighting for a new public hospital

The NSW Government has been in office for almost six years and our community is still waiting for them to stop playing politics and start work on building our local hospital as promised.



Maitland hospital rally.

Like many people across Maitland, I was stunned when the Minister for Health announced in Parliament the NSW Government's plan to privatise the new Lower Hunter Hospital.

Recently I met with Hunter New England Health and Health Infrastructure for the first time despite making repeated requests for a briefing since I was elected in March 2015.

In the briefing Health representatives indicated that if suitable private operators are not identified in the EOI or tender process the Government may return to a fully public model and that in any case the construction of the hospital would commence prior to 2019.

In 2011 the Liberal Government promised a John Hunter sized hospital. In 2015 they promised construction prior to 2019. Now in

2017 they are saying it will be half the size and they'll need private money to build it quicker. Scot MacDonald, former Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, said a public-private partnership model will deliver a bigger hospital in less time.

***This sounds like more broken promises from the NSW Government.***

I've been a strong advocate for the hospital since before I was elected, and I will continue to fight to ensure that our new hospital is publicly operated and big enough for our growing community.

Don't forget to sign our petition at [www.jennyaitchison.com.au/petitions](http://www.jennyaitchison.com.au/petitions)

We have over 4,500 signatures already and I'm hoping to have a debate in Parliament early this year.

### Jenny writes...

**It's been another busy year for me as your local MP, advocating for our community in the NSW Parliament.**

In Maitland, I'm fighting for our hospital, for better roads and infrastructure and to fix the maintenance backlog in our schools.

It's a pity that the NSW Government has left Maitland City Council in limbo with its irresponsible and poorly planned forced amalgamations.

The new Lower Hunter Hospital at Metford is 25% behind budget, with the government having spent \$4 million less than the previous year, and only an additional \$2.2 million being announced for spending in 2016.

I urge you to get in contact with my office and sign our petition or download it from [www.jennyaitchison.com.au/petitions](http://www.jennyaitchison.com.au/petitions)

As Shadow Minister for Small Business and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, I've travelled to Broken Hill, Dubbo, Orange, Wollongong, Wagga Wagga, Goulburn and Queanbeyan to meet with stakeholders and find out what needs to be done to make our state a safer place to open and operate a business and live a life free of domestic and family violence.

I will continue to lobby for important projects and programs in our community and in my shadow ministerial portfolios and look forward to engaging with you throughout 2017.

**Jenny Aitchison MP**  
MEMBER FOR MAITLAND

# School maintenance backlogs

**Schools across NSW are burdened with crumbling infrastructure, which has only worsened under the current State Government. The school maintenance backlog has grown by more than \$43 million in just 12 months.**

Maitland students are being forced to learn in second rate environments because the NSW Government has failed to address the growing maintenance backlog. This is also unfair to our teachers.

Documents obtained under FOI laws have revealed the school maintenance backlog has ballooned to more than \$775 million, up from \$732 million the previous year.

The latest documents showing the individual maintenance backlog for the 21 government schools in the Maitland electorate as at June 30 2016 are very concerning:

- ▶ Four schools with an individual maintenance backlog in excess of \$1 million;
- ▶ Six schools have a backlog in excess of \$500,000;
- ▶ There are no schools with a backlog

bill of less than \$10,000; and  
 ▶ Maitland's ten most dilapidated schools have a combined backlog bill of \$11,549,114, (on average that's more than \$1 million for our ten most needy schools).

The backlog includes a wide range of works including toilet and sewer upgrades, carpet replacement, painting, fixing damaged rooves,

installing guttering, replacing windows and other general repairs. These are basic health and safety needs for our students, teachers and volunteers.

The maintenance backlog has shown once again that the NSW Government has no plan to bring our overcrowded schools up to standard. This is unacceptable. Our kids, teachers and parents deserve better.

TOP TEN SCHOOLS IN MAITLAND (as at 30 June 2016)		
	SCHOOL	MAINTENANCE BACKLOG
1	Rutherford Technology High School	\$1,955,443
2	Maitland High School	\$1,827,744
3	Maitland Grossmann High School	\$1,768,071
4	Francis Greenway High School	\$1,276,706
5	Thornton Public School	\$930,403
6	Telarah Public School	\$912,562
7	Rutherford Public School	\$896,753
8	Maitland East Public School	\$790,234
9	Maitland Public School	\$689,406
10	Bolwarra Public School	\$501,792

## NSW Award for Pam

It was an honour to present Local Maitland croquet identity Pam Gentle with two NSW Government State Representative Awards at Maitland Croquet Club.



Pam represented NSW at the 2015 and 2016 Australian Croquet Championships.

This is a fantastic achievement and Pam should be proud of flying the NSW flag in a national competition.

The NSW Government State Representative Award is presented on behalf of the NSW Government by local members of Parliament to acknowledge the achievements of people who represent the state in any discipline.

Any person who has represented NSW in a competitive field can receive a NSW Government State Representative Award.

**For more information please contact my office on 4933 1617.**



Pam receiving her award.

## Woodberry community came out in force



**I am working hard to bring local agencies together to work to resolve the increased antisocial behaviour and criminal activities people in Woodberry are experiencing.**

It was great to see so many people come along to our first meeting with over 70 people in attendance. Some of the main concerns raised were the lack of police presence and the need for more support and activities for the youth of the area, a follow up meeting was held in early February.

It was great to see the meetings mobilising a number of support services and I am really pleased that the Maitland Neighbourhood Centre has hosted a series of family-activity days in Woodberry over the school holidays.

I'll continue to work with local organisations, council, police, schools and our community to improve the facilities and services in Woodberry and surrounds to help reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour.

# Maitland's local aboriginal student of the year

It was an honour for me to announce **Scarlet Avery** of All Saints College, St Joseph's Campus as Maitland's Local **Aboriginal Student of the Year**.

The Award recognises emerging leaders, rewards students' commitment to their local community and connects students to community leaders and role models.

Scarlet is a very diligent student who provides strong leadership and is committed to her studies and her community. Scarlet is one of 20 students across NSW who visited Parliament House to attend the Emerging Leaders Forum, where she met with Aboriginal, business and government leaders.

We had 5 finalists from around our city. It is good to see so many motivated student leaders in our midst. I held an afternoon tea in my office to announce the winner and to celebrate their achievements. It was attended by the finalists, their families and teachers.



Scarlet Avery at Parliament House.



Finalists: Zoe Crouch, winner Scarlet Avery, Monique Freeman and Belle Leonard. (Absent: Elizabeth Davey)



'Save the Day' SDA Campaign against opening on Boxing Day.

## BOXING DAY

## SALES

**Christmas is a time that should be spent celebrating and relaxing with family and friends. Unfortunately, changes to retail laws mean that many casual retail workers had to be at work early on Boxing Day.**

Some were required to work on Christmas Day in order to prepare the stores for Boxing Day sales. With concerted attacks on penalty rates, this represents a real threat to quality of life for these workers. Local small business owners are feeling the squeeze, too, forced to open on Boxing Day so they can stay competitive against large shopping centres.

***What did you think of Boxing Day trading in Maitland? Visit***

***[www.surveymonkey.com/r/Boxingdaysales](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Boxingdaysales)***

# Jenny's Community Noticeboard

# #WeAreMaitland



**WOMEN'S NETWORK HUNTER – White Ribbon Luncheon with Kellie Mills of 100 Alice Stories.**  
The 68 dresses around the room represent the women murdered due to violence in 2016.



**234 CADET – I was honoured to attend the end of year parade and present cadet Jayden Nash with the Brian Bower Memorial Shield for the Most Improved Cadet.**



**RELAY FOR LIFE – I was pleased to open the 2016 Maitland Relay for Life.**



**ART EXPRESS COMES TO MRAG – Our Regional Art Gallery was one of only 10 across the state exhibiting works for the HSC. I enjoyed speaking to one of the award Winners Nicholas Ta now at Campbelltown TAFE about his beautiful work.**



**"IT'S IN THE BAG" CAMPAIGN – Over 170 new and pre-loved handbags filled to overflowing with women's personal products were delivered to my office before Christmas to give to women in need in our community. Thanks to the many individuals and businesses that donated including Castle Personnel Services.**



**VOLUNTEERS FOR PALLIATIVE CARE GOLF DAY – With volunteers Senta Yarrington, Louise Williams and Jane Kift from Palliative. I am a strong advocate for cancer services in our community.**



**TESTERS HOLLOW – with Federal Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson, inspecting Testers Hollow.**



**WOODBERRY PUBLIC SCHOOL ABORIGINAL DANCE GROUP –**  
The group's performance keeps the spirit of Aboriginal culture alive and provides positive role models and activities.



**MAITLAND TATTOO –** The City of Maitland Pipes and Drums Band perform at the newly refurbished Maitland Town Hall.



**FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE CITY CEREMONY –**  
With Mayor Peter Blackmore OAM and Town Crier, Stephen Clarke at the Freedom of Entry to the City Ceremony for the Royal Australian Air Force No.2 Squadron.



**SES OPEN DAY AT RUTHERFORD DEPOT –** A great opportunity to thank our wonderful emergency service personnel.



**308 SQUADRON –** It was a pleasure to review the 308 (City of Maitland) Squadron Australian Air Force cadets at the 2016 End of Year Ceremonial Parade and present the CO Encouragement Award to CCPL Guadagnini.

# Local organisations share in \$200,000

I'm delighted that 18 local community organisations have secured funding under the NSW Government's 2016 Community Building Partnership (CBP) program.

I was so impressed with the quality and calibre of these projects. All of them are designed to enhance much needed local facilities and improve the quality of life in our community. Stay tuned for information on how to apply for the 2017 round of funding.



**LOCHINVAR ROVERS RECEIVED \$20,000**

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	AMOUNT FUNDED
Beresfield & District Community Care	Let's Get There! transport initiative	\$21,000
Girl Guides	East Maitland Guides Hall repairs	\$6,400
East Maitland War Memorial & Rest Park Trust	Installation of air conditioning and ceiling fan replacement	\$4,158
East Maitland Little Athletics	Fencing upgrade to Metford Recreation Reserve	\$28,200
Maitland Basketball Assoc.	Floor resurfacing and painting of Maitland Federation Centre	\$28,400
Girl Guides	Maitland Guides Hall repairs and upgrades	\$15,000
Maitland Repertory Theatre	Covered work area	\$2,700
Morpeth Men's Shed	Disabled access and security system	\$10,000
Lochinvar School of Arts	Rejuvenation of Lochinvar School of Arts Hall	\$6,500
Marli Accommodation Services	Feeding the Homeless	\$5,142
Woodbery & District Athletic Centre	First Aid, Defibrillator and Training Package	\$2,500
Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle	Saint Peter's Anglican Church - Northern Access Door	\$10,000
Lochinvar Rovers Football Club	Lochinvar Sporting Complex Lighting Upgrade	\$20,000
Maitland Park Bowling and Sporting Complex	Roof Restoration in Auditorium	\$5,000
Children's Services Community Management Limited	Creating engaging natural environments for children	\$10,000
Trustees of Church Property for the Diocese of Newcastle	Fiacre's Feast - Emergency Food Relief	\$10,000
East Maitland Rugby League Parents and Oldboys	East Maitland Rugby League Playing Fields and Clubhouse	\$10,000
Masonic Holdings	Construction of storage shed	\$5,000

I'm very pleased this funding will help our local community groups, with their many hard working volunteers, continue to make a positive difference for everyone in Maitland.

**Further details of the program and all successful grants funded under the 2016 program can be found at [www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au](http://www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au) under the 'successful grants' tab.**



**At the reopening of Easts Leisure and Golf Club with Easts President Bill Hopkins OAM, Meryl Swanson MP and Mayor Peter Blackmore OAM.**

## Easts Golf Club

### RE-OPENING

**I was so pleased to attend the official reopening of Easts Leisure and Golf Club's course.**

The Super Storm that hit our area so hard in April 2015 caused considerable damage to the Course.

The State Government provided \$8,408 to assist with the installation of an automated irrigation system. The Club has contributed greatly to many organisations in our city through golf days, and other events as well as through the important ClubGRANTS program.

## Recognise a volunteer

Do you know a tireless volunteer who deserves recognition for their service? So often, volunteers quietly work in the background, and would not put themselves forward for an award. It's up to all of us to consider who we know who is deserving of recognition.

As a Member of Parliament, I am able to recognise two community volunteers each year with a NSW Government Community Service Award.

To be eligible, nominees must live in the Maitland electorate, undertake community work performed principally within the electorate, be held in high regard in the community, and hold strong ethical and community values.

If you would like to nominate someone, please phone **4933 1617** or email [maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

## Organise a congratulatory message

**It's lovely to have family members honoured on special occasions.**

My office can organise congratulatory messages for 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th wedding anniversaries, and for 80th, 90th and 100th birthdays from the Premier, the Governor, Federal MPs and the Prime Minister. The Queen and Governor-General will also send special messages for 60th wedding anniversaries and 100th birthdays.

To ensure messages arrive in time for the special celebration, three weeks advance notice is needed for processing. You will need to provide supporting documentation such as a birth certificate or marriage certificate.

## Apply for a Seniors Card

**Are you 60 or older and working less than 20 hours a week?**

**You may be eligible for a Seniors Card. To apply, visit [www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au](http://www.seniorscard.nsw.gov.au) or phone 13 77 88.**

## Do you need a Justice of the Peace?

**Do you require the services of a Justice of the Peace? Contact my office, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.**

To apply to become a NSW Justice of the Peace, fill out the online form at [www.jp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.jp.nsw.gov.au)

For inquiries phone 8688 7487 or email [jp@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jp@agd.nsw.gov.au)

# Mobile offices

I hold regular mobile offices throughout the Maitland electorate. Come and talk to me in your local area about any State Government issue that you need help with.

**THE TIMES AND DATES FOR MY MOBILE OFFICES IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2017 ARE:**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
24 March	2pm - 4pm	Bolwarra Heights
12 April	3pm - 5pm	Morpeth
28 April	10am - 12pm	Gillieston Heights
18 May	10am - 12pm	Tenambit
15 June	2pm - 4pm	Ashtonfield

Please call my office for more details or to make an appointment on 4933 1617.

## How can I help

As your local Member of the NSW Parliament, these are some of the common issues I help people with:

- ▶ Public hospitals
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Community Health
- ▶ TAFE and Vocational Training
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Main Roads
- ▶ Emergency Services
- ▶ Public Housing
- ▶ Police
- ▶ Attorney-General's Department
- ▶ Land and Water Management
- ▶ Public Works
- ▶ Primary Industries
- ▶ Ageing and Disability
- ▶ Community Services
- ▶ National Parks
- ▶ Fair Trading
- ▶ Multiculturalism
- ▶ Medical Research

### REPRESENTATIONS TO MINISTERS:

If you have an issue with the NSW government or a government department, I can make a representation to the relevant Minister for you.

### QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT:

I can ask up to 9 Questions on Notice each week that Parliament sits, and the relevant Minister must answer these within 35 days.

### MY PORTFOLIOS:

I am Shadow Minister for Small Business, and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. I can advocate in these areas.

### PATRONAGE:

I am patron of the MRAG Members Committee, Maitland Invitational Racing Pigeon Club, Maitland and District Genealogy Society, Maitland District Umpires Association, Maitland Repertory Theatre, Volunteers for Palliative Care, Northern NSW Federation of JPs, Maitland & District Tennis Association, Maitland Croquet Club, NASHOs – Maitland Branch and Maitland High School P&C. Contact me if you think I can help your group.

## Connect with me

**ADDRESS:** 34 Church Street, Maitland, NSW 2320

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**YouTube** [Jenny Aitchison MP](#)

## 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.