

JUNE 2019

Maitland Matters



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

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RAILWAY ROUNDABOUT

TOP PRIORITY



The Maitland Railway Roundabout was my first item of business when Parliament resumed in May.

My first speech was to call on the Minister to come to Maitland, see the roundabout and please fix it.

I put the comments on the parliamentary record as a starting point in the conversation with the new Minister for Transport and Roads, who agreed verbally to meet with me. I am waiting for confirmation of a date.

After many attempts to find out more information about the Government's plans I applied for information under the Government Information (Public Access) (GIPA) Act process just before the election to better understand the problems.

The \$51 million one-way overpass has created frustration for thousands of motorists and the peak-hour traffic congestion has literally cut our city in two.

The GIPA has only confirmed my concerns that the one-way overpass was always a "Band Aid" solution.

Reports from Roads and Maritime Services indicate that the upgrade failed within six months of opening to traffic. Despite RMS' traffic modelling, more vehicles were coming out of the Maitland CBD during the evening peak than forecast.

Now after two years of investigation the government is finally preparing to start work on its first fix. It includes some traffic lights for eastbound vehicles approaching the roundabout and traffic queue detectors for westbound.

The Liberal's announcement of \$1.5 million is only stage one of this process. There will be another \$5 million required which will impact on residents of Louth Park.

Maitland is the fastest growing city outside Sydney, with a growth rate of 25 per cent since the 2006 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census. We deserve a proper traffic solution at this location, and real consultation. I will continue to fight for this.

THANK YOU!

I am humbled that once again the people of Maitland have chosen me to be their elected representative in the Parliament of NSW.

It's a tremendous honour and a privilege to serve in the 57th Parliament and I look forward to continuing to advocate for our wonderful city.

During my first term, we, as a community, achieved a great deal.

We fought to ensure that the new Maitland Hospital will be a fully funded public hospital, and pressured the NSW Government to increase funding to \$470 million.

We pushed the government to install container deposit machines at Thornton, East Maitland, Rutherford and Aberglasslyn.

We forced a halt on the sale of the Maitland Department of Lands Office and supported the call for it to be developed as a regional museum.

We lobbied to expand, install toilets at, and reduce maintenance backlogs in Maitland public schools.

My team and I have helped scores of Maitland people with public housing issues, school transport and enrolment matters, and health and mental health service access.

To those of you who chose to vote for me - thank you. For those of you who did not, please know that I am still your elected representative and I am very keen to help everyone in any way possible.

I look forward to serving you throughout the next four years.

Jenny

VIOLENCE MUST STOP UNDER OUR WATCH

As the NSW Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Member for Maitland, I recently had the solemn task of addressing those who gathered to honour those killed by domestic violence.

We met at the Seat of Remembrance on the Lorn river bank to mark National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day; to reflect, to grieve, and to vow to continue the fight to end all forms of family and sexual violence.

As Shadow Minister I have visited more than 50 communities and worked extensively with victim survivors and those who work in this sector. Their experiences and expertise proved invaluable as I helped formulate Labor's \$158million plan to end domestic, family and sexual violence.

One of Labor's key messages to the Berejiklian government during the past four years has been the call for NSW to align itself with the rest of Australia's states and territories and join Our Watch, a joint Commonwealth/State approach to the prevention of domestic violence.



With Carrie's Place CEO Jan McDonald at the Seat of Remembrance

Last month I wrote an editorial that appeared in the *Newcastle Herald* calling for this measure; Interim Leader Penny Sharpe and I wrote to the Premier and Minister Speakman; and I moved a notice of motion on the subject in the NSW Parliament during our first sitting week of 2019.

Two days later, the NSW Government finally chose to take up membership with Our Watch.

I thank and congratulate the Premier and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic

Violence for joining the rest of our nation in its fight against this scourge. I challenge them to take up the rest of Labor's historic package.

At the time this newsletter goes to press, 20 Australian women have been killed this year through domestic violence, nearly half of them have come from NSW.

The government must listen to and work with those who are immersed in the sector if we are to stop the killing.

SHOUT-OUTS FOR SUPERSTARS

As your elected representative in the Parliament of NSW, I have the opportunity to grant formal recognition to deserving Maitland residents.

Those who have substantially helped to improve the quality of life of others in our area may be eligible for a NSW Government Community Service Award.

And those who have represented NSW in a competitive field such as sport, academic achievement, the arts or music may be nominated for a NSW State Government Representative Award.

If you know someone who deserves recognition, email me at maitland@parliament.nsw.gov.au or call my office on 4933 1617.

For more information about the awards and nomination forms, visit: www.dpc.nsw.gov.au/programs-and-services/awards-and-recognition/awards-for-community-service/

Parents: Claim your \$100 Creative / Active Kids voucher

Parents, guardians and carers can receive a \$100 voucher per calendar year to help their youngsters immerse themselves in Active Kids activities such as sport and fitness.

They may also be eligible for a \$100 Creative Kids voucher to help meet the costs of music lessons, drama, theatre, language classes, visual arts, coding and design.

The vouchers are available for every student enrolled in school and may be used with a registered activity provider.



The vouchers can be used at any time during the calendar year they are issued. To find out whether your child is eligible, visit <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

BUILDING “A SENSE OF PLACE”

Congratulations to the students, staff and families of East Maitland Public School on their fabulous garden project.

I was so pleased to drop by the school last month and see what East Maitland Public School had achieved with the \$44,456 Community Building Partnership grant I presented to the Parents and Citizens Association.

The revitalised area is called “A Sense of Place”, and it serves a number of purposes. It’s a native garden, a play area, a place to meet up, and even an outdoor classroom. It also addresses localised flood and maintenance issues.

The East Maitland Public School P&C Association was just one of the 18 community groups who were successful in the 2018 Community Building Partnership Program (CBP).

CBP grants are designed to promote and support infrastructure projects that achieve positive social, environmental and recreational outcomes.

Applications for the 2019 CBP grants will open in September, so get your thinking caps on now.

The countdown is also on until voting begins on another NSW grants program, called “My Community Project”.

This program, which is billed as being ‘all about local ideas, local projects and local decisions’, will allocate grants of \$20,000 to \$200,000. Successful applicants

will be determined by the number of votes they receive.

If you are over 16 and live in the Maitland electorate, you can vote on the projects proposed for our community. All you need to do is sign up for, or use your existing MyServiceNSW account.



Enjoying the new East Maitland Public School multipurpose outdoor area.



Jenny with 'Mr Maitland', Milton Morris AO at SteamFest in 2016

VALE MR MAITLAND

I was like many, so saddened to hear of the passing of Milton Morris AO. "Mr Maitland" was a hardworking, generous and community-minded person, both in public life and after his retirement. Milton established Hunter Valley Training Company and he was always a huge advocate for SteamFest and our wonderful rail heritage.

Most of all Milton loved people and he was always generous with his time, advice and friendship. He took people as they were, regardless of their political persuasion. I am very glad to call him a friend and it will be my great honour to speak on a condolence motion for him in State Parliament soon.

My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, his many, many friends, and especially Mrs Kay Sharp AM, his former Electorate Officer, who has been such a loyal friend to him for so long. Milton will be very much missed by all in our community.

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.

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

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.



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