

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

Organise a congratulatory message



Congratulations to Valerie and Robert Gascoigne, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently.

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 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. For inquiries phone 8688 7487 or email jp@agd.nsw.gov.au



Maitland Matters

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

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New Maitland Hospital – on the waiting list

For five years Maitland has been waiting for a new hospital. Maitland grows by five people every day and we need better health services to meet the demand.

Labor spent \$10 million to upgrade the existing Maitland Hospital emergency department which was completed in 2011.

We have the promise of a Lower Hunter Hospital, an \$8 million sign on Metford Road, and a vague promise from Minister Skinner's office last year that construction would start in this term of government, but that could just be a shovel in the ground in March 2019.

The government has allocated \$6.2 million in the 2016-17 budget for the new hospital. The estimated expenditure to date on the project is \$13.5 million, yet no ground has been broken and no sod has been turned.

The government had promised to spend around \$17 million by now, but is \$4 million behind budget on this promise. A further \$25 million was promised by the Baird Liberal Government at the 2015 election.

What is the timeframe? When will it be built? How will it be run? What will happen to our existing Maitland Hospital?

Despite the best efforts of our hardworking hospital staff, our

patients face long waits for specialists and long delays for elective surgery.

Five years ago we were promised a new \$800 million John Hunter-sized hospital with 630 beds. That was in addition to the 188 at our existing hospital.

Then in 2014 we had consultations. Funding was halved (to \$400 million), beds were halved (to 315) and we were told the existing hospital would probably close.

Instead of a major tertiary public hospital, in addition to the existing public hospital, we are left with the promise of a rural referral public-private partnership hospital with a helipad to fly out the most difficult cases. Cancer patients will still need to travel to the Mater.

In addition to better health outcomes for our growing region, the hospital will provide much needed jobs.

This failure to get on with building this hospital is an appalling snub for Maitland, and our community should no longer be held to ransom.

Jenny writes...

It's been a busy first year for me as your local State Member.

Maitland faced another flood and two East Coast Lows this year. It's a shame that the NSW government failed to provide any funding towards raising the road at Testers Hollow, even after Federal Labor's recent announcement with myself and Mayor Cr Peter Blackmore.

The government has allocated a mere \$6.2 million in this year's budget for the new hospital, with \$4 million of this being what they underspent last year, proving they are 25% behind budget.

Positively, \$20 million renovations to Rutherford Technology High were recently unveiled, the upgrade of Maitland No. 1 Sportsground is under way, and renovations to the Town Hall have been completed. I will continue to lobby for important projects for you.

As recently appointed Shadow Minister for Small Business, and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, I have met with many groups throughout NSW to consult with communities about these portfolios.

While domestic violence and sexual assault have both increased dramatically in the past two years, I have been pleased to work with Carrie's Place, police, our premier sports clubs and the Maitland Business Chamber, as well as many others, to develop new ways to reduce violence in our community. We can make Maitland a safe place for everyone. This is one of my highest priorities.

Jenny Aitchison MP
MEMBER FOR MAITLAND

Green Hills plan boosts jobs

I was pleased to join with the Federal Member for Hunter, Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the Mayor of Maitland, Cr Peter Blackmore OAM, at the official ground breaking event to celebrate the redevelopment and expansion of Stockland Green Hills in March.



Cr Peter Blackmore OAM, Jenny Aitchison MP, John Schroder – Stockland and Joel Fitzgibbon MP.

The \$375 million redevelopment will be great for the Maitland community because of the thousands of new construction and permanent retail jobs it will create.

The ground breaking signified the start of major construction activity at Green Hills, which will continue over the next two years.

Stockland Green Hills will more than double in size to around 70,000 square metres, featuring the first new-format David Jones department store in the Hunter, as well as a new JB Hi-Fi Home store and a new Harris Scarfe department store. The developer also hopes to include a new cinema.

Maitland students visit Parliament

I was so pleased to welcome students from Maitland High School, Hunter Valley Grammar School, Maitland Grossmann High School, Rutherford Technology High School, All Saints College, St Mary's Campus and Maitland Christian School to Parliament House this year.

They were participating in the Secondary Student Leadership Program, which provides them with the opportunity to meet their elected representatives and to develop their knowledge of constitutional and parliamentary processes, including the role of the Governor.

We are so lucky in Maitland to have such talented young people.



Representatives from local schools participating in the Secondary Student Leadership Program.

Community Building Partnership grants open

Applications are now open for funding to community groups to build, refurbish or maintain facilities, under the 2016 Community Building Partnership program. Applications can also include the purchase of capital equipment.

\$200,000 will be split between groups in the Maitland electorate, and the minimum funding request is \$2,500.

Applications close on Friday 22 July, and successful groups will be announced in December.

Last year funding was shared between nine groups, including \$70,000 for Maitland Rugby Union Football Club for an electrical transformer and lighting upgrade at Marcellin Park, and \$63,676 for Maitland Tenambit BMX Club to stormproof its track and install a safety start gate.



For information, visit www.communitybuildingpartnership.nsw.gov.au or contact my office.

Maitland's Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Pennie Kearney, who was announced as Maitland's Woman of the Year in March as part of the 2016 International Women's Day celebrations.



Pennie Kearney and Maitland City Cr Loretta Baker.

The Local Woman of the Year award celebrates the remarkable and inspiring women who make a significant contribution to the local community.

Every day women of all ages across Maitland make immense and valuable contributions to their community, and these annual awards are an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and celebrate these inspirational women.

Pennie joined The Mai-Wel Group in 1997 to co-ordinate the specialist employment division, now Mai-Wel LabourForce Solutions, and accepted the role of CEO in 2000.

Consistent leadership, emphasis on business and community engagement has driven Mai-Wel to become a premium disability service provider in the Hunter region.

Astute planning and best practice business systems are the basis from which Pennie has built a robust and vibrant not-for-profit organisation. The recent industry changes associated with the NDIS have sparked a renewed passion and specific focus on excellence in service delivery.

90+ and still going strong

I was excited to join three of our nonagenarians from Maitland at the 24th Annual Jean Arnot Luncheon, hosted by the Shadow Minister for Women, Sophie Cotsis MLC, at Parliament House in May.

Merle Phillipps, Edna Millett and Beryl Capp are all fine examples of the tireless service many women have provided to our community to make it a better place.

Jean Arnot MBE FLAA was an incredible campaigner for equal pay, who, for 42 years of her working life, earned less than male employees, even her subordinates. Sadly it was only in the last five years of her life that she benefitted from her efforts to achieve equal worth in the Public Service.

It is fitting that the service of these women to our community has been recognised in such a way.



Local nonagenarians and their carers.

Maitland student to commemorate ANZACs



Maitland Christian School student, Elizabeth Reid.

PHOTO COURTESY: MAITLAND MERCURY

In April, I was pleased to congratulate Maitland Christian School student Elizabeth Reid, who has been named as a Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholar.

Elizabeth is one of a select group of 24 students who will visit France and Belgium in July to commemorate the ANZACs who fought on the Western Front during World War I.

Elizabeth's pilgrimage to the Western Front will enable the stories of sacrifice and courage by the ANZACs to be passed on to our younger generations.

Exploring family stories from World War I unites young Australians by unlocking our diverse histories and shared identity. There can be no better way to commemorate our ANZACs than to walk on the battlefields where they fought.

Jenny's Community Noticeboard



SHADOW MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT – I was humbled to become Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and Shadow Minister for Small Business.



SPEAKING AT STOCKLAND – discussing the employment opportunities created by the Stockland expansion at Green Hills.



MAITLAND MEN GO PINK – Maitland men went pink in November to raise breast cancer awareness.



CENTRAL COAST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ROUNDTABLE – discussing ways to best address issues and concerns.



VOLUNTEERS FOR PALLIATIVE CARE – it was great to officially open Volunteers for Palliative Care's new office in Maitland.



CATHOLIC CARE – supporting Catholic Care's Christmas present giveaway for local foster children.



PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT – I visited Maitland Community Preschool to discuss Labor's plan for preschool education.



JANUARY FLOOD – surveying the damage with local farmers following the January flood.



SHADOW MINISTER FOR ROADS VISIT – with Jodi McKay, inspecting the Thornton Bridge and other roads in the electorate.



PETITION LAUNCH – I joined with my local Labor colleagues to launch a petition opposing the Government's forced council amalgamations.



MAITLAND OVERPASS – taking a look at the construction of the Maitland overpass.

Maitland Aboriginal Roundtable

In February, I convened the Maitland Aboriginal Roundtable with the then-Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Linda Burney MP.



With Linda Burney MP and members of the local Indigenous community.

The Indigenous population in Maitland faces similar issues and difficulties as those experienced by Aboriginal people across the state.

The Roundtable brought together key stakeholders in the Aboriginal community to identify strategies that are working well and potential gaps in service provision.

Local sporting groups share in \$50,000

I am delighted that 10 Maitland sporting groups have shared in \$50,000 funding under the 2016 Local Sport Grant Program.

Sport is synonymous with Maitland, and great for personal and community wellbeing.

It's important that all levels of government provide the necessary support.

GRANTS HAVE GONE TO:

- East Maitland Bowling Club,
- East Maitland Junior Rugby League Football Club,
- Hunter Hockey Association,
- Maitland Football Club,
- Thornton Junior Football Club,
- Thornton/Beresfield Rugby League Club,
- Western Suburbs Schoolboy Rugby League Football Club,
- Raworth Rabbitohs Cricket Club,
- Lochinvar Rovers Football Club, and
- Maitland Basketball Association.



Congratulating players from East Maitland Junior Rugby League Football Club on their successful grant, with Club President Vicki Adams-Trusz (left), registrar Cheryl Lucas (back) and secretary Bill Hackney (right).

COME AND SEE ME



Speaking with Gwenda Darling at the Metford Mobile Office.

My office is at 34 Church Street, Maitland, and you are welcome to phone to make an appointment with my staff to see me about matters that affect you.

My number is 4933 1617.

I know that not everyone can make it into my office, and so I hold mobile offices from time to time to hear directly from constituents. This year I held mobile offices in Rutherford and Metford, and plan to hold more in the coming months.

Look out for me in your suburb in the future, and come and say hello.

How can I help

As your local Member of the NSW Parliament, I can help you with the following matters:

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

Connect with me

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▶ Jenny Aitchison MP

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, and Maitland High School P&C. Contact me if you think I can help your group.

MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL

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

If you have a council issue, it's best to call them directly on 4934 9700. Record the event number you are given for future reference.