

# Walls That Talk - YOUR MAITLAND

Within Maitland there are many different faces and stories that make our community unique and special. In January 2026, young members of the community were invited to participate in photography workshops designed to teach participants the skills needed to tell their own Maitland story. Participants were encouraged to see things from a different perspective and experiment using different techniques to capture striking images. From the submitted works, eight images were selected to appear on the walls of Maitland Library and a further 25 chosen to be displayed inside Maitland and East Maitland Libraries.

In *Your Maitland*, we invite you to see Maitland from a fresh perspective as some of our young residents share what Maitland means to them.



## *Wall*

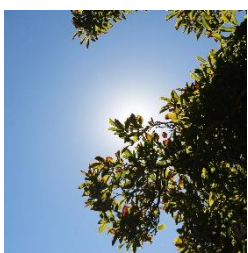
Riverside Walk, High Street, Maitland

Daniel Houlahan 2026

The Riverside Walk is a hive of activity on sunny days and the day our participants ventured out into the summer heat was no exception. As people bustled past, participants paused to appreciate the quiet places and find beauty in contrasting textures and materials that adorn the buildings of Maitland.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Daniel: Nice spot hidden in plain sight.



## *Summer Sky*

Maitland Riverside Walk, Maitland

Lewis 2026

Sunshine in Maitland can be plentiful, and many participants spoke fondly of the summer activities they enjoyed in Maitland. Some looked up to capture the warmth and brightness of clear summer days.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Lewis: This picture represents Maitland to me because it shows the calm peaceful summer days on The Levee.



### *Autumn*

The Bourke Street Link, The Levee, Central Maitland  
Daniel Houlahan 2026

Colour evokes emotion, it helps propel us to giddy heights, encourages lively celebrations, or draws us in to melancholy scenes for cathartic release. During the workshops participants were encouraged to play with colour and light to produce vivid imagery and set the emotional tone of the scene.

The mural captured in this image is *The New One* – Patricia Van Lubeck, 2018

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Daniel: Bright colours of special times



### *Clouds over Walka*

Walka Water Works, Oakhampton Heights  
Amber Adams 2026

Participants had a lot of fun using puddles and water to produce a different perspective. In doing so they began to appreciate that beauty can be found in many things and sometimes creating something unique means changing your angle.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Amber: Walka Waterworks is a favourite place for me in Maitland, nice walks, learning to ride here, picnics with the kids.



### *Walka Pump House*

Walka Water Works, Oakhampton Heights  
Amber Adams 2026

The aim was for participants to apply the skills gained in the workshops and continue developing their photography practice. By exploring further afield to the locations that held meaning to them, participants showed us that there are many places in Maitland that have a story to tell.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Amber: Just a good spot, managed to catch this on an evening walk after some rain.



### *Endless Skylines*

Hunter River, Maitland

Ryan Lindsay 2026

As participants explored the town, they considered their surroundings and reflected on how these landscapes and elements represented and reflected Maitland.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Ryan: This image represents Maitland as a place of openness and possibility. The endless skyline reflects the way the town feels – not confined or closed in, but stretching outward, shaped by both its natural surroundings and the people who move through it every day.



### *The Clock Tower*

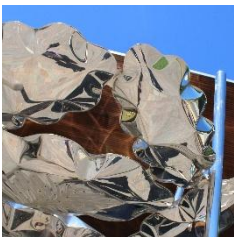
Maitland Post Office, Maitland

Isla Fisher 2026

Many of the participants were thrilled to discover ‘hidden’ gems of Maitland’s history that are hiding in plain sight. All one needs to do is look up or down to spot them. Some of the more iconic buildings were captured as they are such a prominent part of the Maitland experience.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

Isla: This picture was taken outside Maitland Post Office and is easily recognisable due to the clocktower, which rings on the hour. The post office, which opened in 1881 and was designed by architect James Barnet, is a part of Maitland’s long history.



### *On the Levee*

The Levee, Central Maitland

Ginger Allen and Candice Piefke 2026

The workshops showed that whether you have lived in Maitland all your life, or only a short time, we all have a story to tell. From the past to the future, we become the story of *Your Maitland*.

The reflective cloud captured in this image is part of the sculpture *Clouds Gathering* created by Newcastle sculptor Braddon Snape in 2016.

*How does this picture represent Maitland to you?*

I moved to East Maitland in January 2025. We were here for a bit, then came the floods. We had come from a place with not much flooding at all. It was very dry there. This photo represents how

my family and I would come down to The Levee, to the riverbank to see how much it had overflowed. The bright blue sky represents the sunny hot days we have here, and the beautiful wood reminds me of Maitland; beautiful old buildings, Walka Waterworks. The shiny metal symbolises how I have reflected on my time here in Maitland, and with more time to come. Maitland is an amazing place to live. I am so happy I am here.

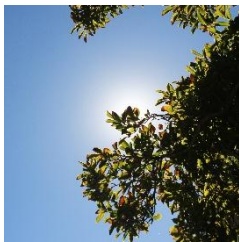


Title image: featuring samples from photographers Lewis and Ginger & Candice

Top image features sculptural work *Clouds Gathering* by Braddon Snape, 2016



1. Wall



2. Summer Sky



3. Autumn



4. Clouds over Walka



5. Walka Pump House



6. Endless Skylines



7. The Clock Tower



8. On the Levee

The images above have been modified to fit the poster format. They can be seen in full online at: <https://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/projects/walls-that-talk>

## WALLS THAT TALK – YOUR MAITLAND IN THE LIBRARY

Images taken by our workshop participants, can be seen by visiting East Maitland Library and Maitland City Library.