Walls That Talk – Let's Shine Together

For our *Walls That Talk: Let's Shine Together* exhibition, we invited members of our community to share the unique ways they come together, celebrate summer and create memories with the people they love. Through photographs, illustrations and stories, our featured families and friends offer a glimpse into the traditions and moments that make this time of year so special.

From summer adventures along Maitland River and exploring neighbourhood Christmas lights to cultural celebrations and long-held family traditions, these stories create a vibrant portrait of life in Maitland, highlighting the people, places and shared experiences that foster a sense of belonging.

We invite you to explore the exhibition, enjoy these personal insights and perhaps find a little of your own story reflected in the celebrations of others.



"Summer for us is a sun-soaked jumble of joy. Meandering along the Maitland's riverbank with our inquisitive and high energy dog. Wandering the Walka Water Works track. Cooling off in our backyard pool and ending the Christmas season under the magical glow of Hunter Valley Christmas lights. It's simple, sparkly, togetherness."

Laura Pettit, Ava Marriott & Rosa Marriott



“For the people of Afghanistan, Nowruz is more than the beginning of a new year. It celebrates the arrival of spring, the renewal of nature and the return of hope. Families clean their homes, wear new clothes, prepare traditional foods such as Samanak and Haft Mewa, and gather with loved ones. People visit family and friends, exchange gifts and share good wishes. Above all, Nowruz is a celebration of culture, community, renewal and new beginnings.”

Aziza & friends



“For our family, summer means Christmas, family and tradition. My family came to Australia from Europe after the war, arriving at Greta migrant camp. Every Christmas Eve we celebrate Holy Night by driving around to see the Christmas lights. We used to visit Beresfield but now love walking around Aberglasslyn and discovering the beautiful homes shared on the Maitland community page. We then return home for a feast before waking to Santa. These traditions connect our past with the next generation.”

John Kaczmar, Carmel Kaczmar-Bof, George Kaczmar-Bof & Carmel Kaczmar



“We are a family of six, living on acreage in Gosforth. Swimming is life for us in summer. We rotate between playing and kayaking in the dam (sometimes the horses join us!), exploring and finding fun along the Hunter River behind our place and cooling off in the swim spa in the afternoon.”

Jade, Finley, Primrose, Quill & Lily Catton



“For our family, the Mid-Autumn Festival is a time to celebrate our Chinese heritage. Held on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, this traditional harvest festival focuses on family unity. We gather to share sweet mooncakes filled with lotus paste, while the children light up the night playing with colourful lanterns. We also love coming together for a festive trivia night, solving lantern riddles and enjoying the simple joy of being with the people we love.”

Cathy, Zishen, Caitlin & Zachary

Thanks to all our wonderful families and friends who shared their stories with us!



Walls That Talk exhibition uses the external walls of Maitland Library to share local stories, celebrate our community, and highlight Maitland's history and culture. With four exhibitions per calendar year, the exhibition program is guided by Maitland libraries and focuses on learning, creativity, inclusion and celebrating Maitland's people, places and history.

To learn more about Walls that Talk, suggest an exhibition or download this Information Sheet, visit https://www.maitlandlibrary.com.au/stories/walls-that-talk or scan the QR code