MAITLAND RIVERLIGHTS

Cultural Passport 2026

Proudly presented by

The Mutual Bank

maitland CITY COUNCIL

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Welcome

to Maitland Riverlights 2026!

Maitland Riverlights, proudly presented by The Mutual Bank, is a vibrant and dynamic celebration of culture through interactive stalls, dance, global flavours, music and the arts.

With over 50 cultures featured it's a magnificent gathering of the Hunter's multicultural community.

Sample delicious food, revel in captivating performance, pick up new language skills, make new friends and become a part of something truly special!

Translated and Accessible Options

You can view the Maitland Riverlights program in a variety of languages and accessible formats on the website.

- عربي | Arabic
- 中文（简体) | Chinese (simplified)
- pilipino | Filipino
- Melayu | Malay
- ਪੰਜਾਬੀ | Punjabi
- தமிழ் | Tamil

Scan the QR code to try it out

Ready to get a **headstart** on saving?

Receive a **$20 voucher** toward your **new or existing Mighty Mutual account!**

Complete your Cultural Passport and present to The Mutual Bank stand to receive your voucher!

Helping people thrive

themutual.com.au | 1300 688 825

The Mutual Bank

Available to persons aged under 18 years. Eligibility criteria and promotion terms and conditions apply. See themutual.com.au for details.

Maitland Mutual Limited trading as The Mutual Bank ABN 94 087 651 983 AFSL/Australian Credit License 238139

Your Cultural Passport

Embark on a cultural journey with your Maitland Riverlights cultural passport.

This passport is your key to unlocking a world of experiences at the festival.

Discover captivating performance, workshops, demonstrations and vibrant cultural villages throughout the event.

Don’t forget to get your passport stamped at each village as you enrich your understanding of a diverse range of cultures and traditions. Once you’ve collected all of your stamps, bring your completed passport to The Mutual Bank stand to claim a bright and cheerful piggy bank.

Groove Fusion Stage

Hosted by Alex Morris

TIME	PERFORMANCE
2.00pm	Mixed Mobs Dance Group
2.45pm	Khloe Azzopardi
3.00pm	Alice Zeng
3.45pm	Belly Dance & Mini Workshop with Tara Yasmin
4.05pm	Junior Legends Dance Performance
4.15pm	Elevate Irish Dancers
4.45pm	Čekor Macedonian Dance Company
5.30pm	Newcastle Bangladeshi Community Performance
5.45pm	Nick King - Greek singer
6.45pm	Sri Lankan Women's Network Newcastle and Hunter
7.00pm	Dancers of Africa

Riverlights Stage

TIME	PERFORMANCE
5.30pm	Super Rats
6.45pm	Charles Maimarosia
8.00pm	SambaFrog

World Stage

Hosted by Todd Sergeant

TIME	PROGRAM
2.00pm	Event Welcome
2.15pm	Citizenship Ceremony
2.50pm	Chakras Performing Arts
2.55pm	Cultural Fashion Parade
3.40pm	Cultural Song and Dance Performances
7.45pm	Riverlights Community Parade

Dance Workshops

TIME	PROGRAM
4.30pm	EtnoZumba Dance Workshop
5.00pm	Flamenco Dance Workshop

Global Cuisine Stage

Hosted by Slow Food Hunter Valley

TIME	PROGRAM
2.00pm	**Slow Food Hunter Valley** Pepes Tempeh & Tofu – A Taste of Indonesia with Mieke
2.35pm	**Roots & Rhythms of Bangladesh** Eggplant Vorta – A Taste of Bangladesh
3.10pm	**Hunter Sinhala School** Crispy Lentil Fritters with Coconut Sambal
3.45pm	**Iranian Community of Newcastle** Baghala Ghatogh – A Taste of Northern Iran with Ghazal
4.20pm	**Newcastle Tamil Sangam** Flavours of Tamil Cuisine – Chickpea Curry & Kesari with Jeyanthi Jeevahan and Pavithra Satishkumar
5.05pm	**Afghanistan Community Group** Discover Bolani: Afghanistan's Traditional Stuffed Flatbread
5.40pm	**South Sudanese Community Group** Perinda: A South Sudanese Dish for Life's Special Celebrations with Evelyne Poni
6.15pm	**Slow Food Hunter Valley** A Taste of Vietnam with Felicia Ngyuen
6.50pm	**Newcastle Bangladeshi Community** Golden Bites of Bangladesh: Vegetable Pakora

Express Yourself Language Lounge

TIME	PROGRAM
2.00pm	Storytime with the Filipino Language Class
2.20pm	How to greet and express yourself in Sinhalese
2.40pm	Swahili greetings and verbs
3.00pm	Intro to Auslan (Australian sign language) by SoLA
3.20pm	Learning the Arabic language with Syrian the community
3.40pm	Introduction of Afrikaans, Xhosa and IsiZulu
4.00pm	Russian in a rush - learn words, play games, explore culture
4.20pm	Discover Sri Lankan language and culture with Sri Lankan Women's Network
4.40pm	Persian: A language of poetry and culture
5.00pm	Samoan greetings
5.20pm	Tamil Language, people and culture by Newcastle Tamil School Students
5.40pm	Learn to write your name in Bangla
6.00pm	Languages of PNG - discovering Motu and Tok Pisin
6.20pm	Hello in Tibetan! Greetings and everyday phrases
6.40pm	The Unbreakable One: Born into Fire – A Memoir of Survival, Justice, and Hope

Riverlights Eatery

Located in Dransfield Lane and Bulwer Street, the Riverlights Eatery is a dedicated food area featuring your favourite local and regional food stalls serving up a wide range of food and drinks from across the globe.

Eat Around the World

Visit one of these local businesses offering a **Riverlights special**:

Acacia Dining

BanBan Chikin

Beud

Fratelli Roma

Maitland Tuckerbox

Ometto Pizza Bar and Deli

Van Gool Patisserie

The Imperial Hotel

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Cultural Villages

Immerse yourself in a world of vibrant traditions, tasty cuisines and exciting activities. Visit each Cultural Village, stamp your passport and head to The Mutual Bank stall.

Persian Speaking Culture of Afghanistan

Celebrate Afghan culture with handcrafted embroidery, traditional dishes and stories of resilience.

Stamp here

Afghan Community

Discover Afghan heritage with cultural displays, decorations and henna art designs for purchase.

Stamp here

Filipino Language Class

Experience Filipino culture with handicrafts, decorations, authentic food and interactive activities.

Stamp here

University of Newcastle French Society

Join in fun French games and activities to test your skills and enjoy the joy of French language and culture.

Stamp here

Australian Iranian Community of Newcastle

Celebrate Iran's Harvest Festival through traditional decorations, crafts, cultural displays, and delicious Iranian foods showcasing the country's rich heritage.

Stamp here

Kenya Wananchi Newcastle

Discover Kenyan culture through a fun quiz, traditional clothing, beautiful basketry, and delicious Kenyan spiced tea for everyone.

Stamp here

The Russian Speaking Community of Newcastle and Hunter

Discover Russian culture through traditional dolls, clothing displays, fun photo opportunities, and engaging interactive activities for children to enjoy together.

Stamp here

MAITLAND RIVERLIGHTS

antern Making

Riverlights Stage

Food Stalls

Global Cuisine Stage

Groove Fusion Stage

General Stalls

World Stage

Express Yourself
Language Lounge

Cultural Villages

Dance Workshops

Sensory Space

Water Station

NSW GOVERNMENT

Multicultural NSW

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Samoan Community

Experience Samoan culture with artefacts, food, craft and stories shared by our welcoming community.

Stamp here

Hunter Sinhala School

Discover Sri Lankan culture through colourful displays, traditional decorations and vibrant lanterns, while learning about community traditions and customs.

Stamp here

Newcastle Tamil Sangam

Experience Tamil culture with traditional displays, colourful décor and delicious food for purchase.

Stamp here

Tonga Petani Community Services

Explore Tongan culture with handcrafted items, tapa cloths, drums and vibrant traditional displays.

Stamp here

Indonesian Australian Community Newcastle and Hunter Region

Experience Indonesian culture through traditional clothing, accessories and vibrant displays celebrating Indonesia's rich cultural heritage.

Stamp here

South Sudanese Community

Discover South Sudanese culture through handmade jewellery and traditional foods, including meat, okra and rice.

Stamp here

Nigerian Community Newcastle and Hunter Region

Celebrate Nigerian culture with traditional décor, flags and tasty snacks like Puff Puff for purchase.

Stamp here

Tibetan Community of Newcastle

Discover Tibetan culture through traditional handicrafts, decorations and delicious Tibetan Momos, available to purchase.

Stamp here

South African Community

Discover South African culture through traditional arts, games, activities, and delicious dishes including Bunny Chow and Vetkoek.

Stamp here

North Sudanese Community

Experience North Sudanese hospitality with tea, coffee and sweet treats. Discover the culture through traditional objects and colourful decorations.

Stamp here

Studies of Language Association (SoLA)

Explore languages through multicultural games, maps, books, representatives and activities celebrating diverse cultures and communities.

Stamp here

Newcastle Papua New Guinean Cultural Community

Discover Papua New Guinea's culture through traditional displays, artefacts and foods like sago and cassava.

Stamp here

Newcastle Polish Community

Explore Polish culture through folk costumes, music, crafts, games, colouring competitions and Polish-inspired items for purchase.

Stamp here

Common Ground Multicultural Dance Group

Step into a colourful and welcoming space and discover more about the group and its cultural traditions.

Stamp here

Roots & Rhythms of Bangladesh

Celebrate Bangladeshi culture through inclusive activities, explore traditional food, clothing and discover the meanings behind cultural symbols.

Stamp here

University of Newcastle Nepalese Club

Discover Nepalese culture through decorations, customs, clothing, photo opportunities and traditional snacks.

Stamp here

Syrian House

Discover Syrian culture through traditional decorations and clothing displays, sample delicious Syrian sweets, and experience the art of henna.

Stamp here

Sri Lankan Women's Network Newcastle and Hunter

Discover Sri Lankan culture through colourful traditional decorations, cultural displays and a traditional drum.

Stamp here

Riverlights 2026 Finale

Riverbank and Hunter River | 7.45pm - 9.00pm

Celebrate the vibrant finale of Maitland Riverlights with a colourful Community Parade, an electrifying live set by SambaFrog and a breathtaking river show featuring floating lanterns and glowing lotus flowers with a stunning light display. Join us by the riverbank for an unforgettable evening of music, movement and community spirit.

Riverlights Community Parade Commencing at the World Stage	**7.45pm**
SambaFrog Riverlights Stage performance	**8.00pm**

MAITLAND RIVERLIGHTS

We look forward to seeing you at the next Maitland Riverlights in October 2027

#MaitlandRiverlights

maitlandriverlights.com.au

A Maitland City Council event

maitland CITY COUNCIL

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