



# MAITLAND YOUTH SPACES STRATEGY

## Volume 1: Trends, Demand and Consultation Findings 2011





## About this document

This document is Volume 1: Trends, Demand and Consultation Findings and is part of a series of documents produced for the Youth Spaces Strategy for Maitland City Council.

It provides a summary of population and sport participation projections for the City of Maitland, trends, as well as information obtained throughout consultation.

Other components being prepared for this project include:

- Condition audit
- Discussion Paper
- Youth Spaces Strategy

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## 1. Introduction

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### 1.1. Background

This study has resulted from a resolution of Council calling for a review of skatepark facilities within the LGA. Council resolved as follows:

*‘That a report be bought back to Council detailing the status of all skateparks in the Maitland LGA. The report is to include potential future locations recommended (if any) and number of seating and garbage’s provided at existing (if any)’.*

Rather than deal solely with skateparks that were built in the mid 90’s early 2000’s it is recognised that needs of young people have changed over time and that there is a trend towards providing different settings which appeal to differing age groups, genders, interests and contain a clustering of many elements and accessible to all of the community.

In summary the purpose of the study is to develop a city wide youth space strategy to meet the current and future needs of the LGA.

### The Council’s youth spaces

Maitland City Council currently has 7 skateparks, one BMX track, one full outdoor basketball court and two half-basketball courts that have been considered youth spaces as part of this study.

#### **Maitland**

Two skateparks are located in Maitland within the Maitland Sportsground Precinct and at Harold Gregson Reserve.

#### **Rutherford**

Rutherford Youth Space has skate and scooter elements, a playground, hangout areas, art spaces, drinking fountains, bins, shade and seating.

#### **Metford**

This skatepark is located at the Metford Recreation reserve co-located with a half basketball court. The sportsground has an athletics track and playing fields.

#### **Largs**

This skatepark is located at Largs Park co-located close to two tennis courts and playing fields.

#### **Thornton**

This skatepark is located at Thornton Park with playing fields, playground and half basketball court, 4 tennis courts and two netball courts.

#### **Woodberry**

This skatepark is located at a Fred Harvey Sports Centre, co-located with a playground, a full outdoor basketball court and a tennis court. The sportsgrounds have an athletics and baseball facility and playing fields.

## 1.2. Benefits of action sports and spaces for young people

Youth spaces typically provide opportunities for young people to participate in action sports. Action sports offer challenge, physical and social development for participants and a great spectacle for others. They can be practiced almost anywhere in urban areas. They don't require routine commitment, however they require skills, dedication and practice to master techniques. They are social and physically exhilarating, as well as relatively affordable, and they don't need a lot of parent support. Skateparks can provide "a supportive close knit community environment that knows no limits of age, locality, stature or prejudice, and provides great role models; and an everyday growing group of friends and networking possibilities"<sup>1</sup>.

Another benefit of these activities is that they also provide young people with a means of getting around and hence; enhanced mobility. Mobility in children promotes independence and self-confidence, as well as the enhancement of way-finding skills, and an ability to expand leisure interests and safely visit friends and family members. They are often attractive to adolescents as they evolve to suit changing lifestyles.

There is a good case for providing more public action-sports facilities, to encourage play, and social and physical participation by young people. Skate and BMX parks are particularly important for adolescents to provide legitimate and supportive places to gather and feel a sense of belonging. As such, these have an important role in preventative health.

They provide a point of contact, and can encourage the establishment of good lifestyle patterns that will persist into adulthood. With good management and design, youth spaces in suitable locations can send important messages to young people about their values and acceptance by the community, as well as provide fun, and action sports activities that are appealing to young people. Such facilities can thereby increase the neighbourhood's capability to nurture young people.

Whilst ABS has found a high proportion of skateboarders play other mainstream sports, action sport facilities provide an alternative to team sports, at a time many young people don't want routine commitments, and at an age when schools provide less sports opportunities and children start to drop out of team sports.

There is strong evidence to suggest that play is as important in adolescent and young adults as in other years, and these facilities are an important extension to single-purpose playgrounds, and social / family recreation spaces.

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<sup>1</sup> A member of the Canberra Skateboards Association writing about what skateboarding had given him.

### 1.3. Trends in style and design of skate /BMX facilities

The skateparks in Maitland exemplify a number of trends in skateboard park construction.

The snake run and half pipe in the Maitland Sportsground Precinct exemplified a cycle of park design constructed in the early eighties.

Image 1. Example of other snake runs



Large half pipes or vert ramps, (typically steel) as well as large, round concrete bowls followed in the late 1980s. See images below.

Image 2. Example of steel half pipes and large deep bowls typical of the 1980's



There are none of these types of facilities in Maitland.

Small skateparks with mostly transitions (steel ramps) followed in the nineteen nineties. These were usually on a flat small rectangular concrete slab with fun boxes, pyramids and blocks. See image below.

Image 3. Seymour Skate Park



Woodberry, Metford and Harold Gregson Reserve, Maitland exemplify this type of park. Some such parks were constructed with precast elements, following the successful development of moulds by a company working with local skaters and the Wyong Shire. Harold Gregson Reserve skatepark is constructed in this way. Elements are transportable and theoretically could be changed around. These transportable ramps have very smooth surfaces but they tend to wear more quickly than those constructed in situ. They also have crane holds and steel transition nosings that need to be managed differently.

Later, as concrete construction improved, local skateparks evolved with more street elements, including stairs for example, and transitions constructed in situ in reinforced concrete using cut and fill were provided. See images below.



Largs Skate Park is an early style of park built insitu, although located on a concrete slab, without cut and fill.

Skate parks with a local catchment are typically still constructed in this style, varied by different elements, the topography and configuration of the site.

At a regional scale, skateparks were built the same way with a range of different transitions and street elements and often including bowl areas.

In the mid 2000's, skate plazas and trails started to appear. These replicated street locations, had few transitions, with mostly blocks and ledges following. In more recent developments, skateparks tend to have a combination of street plazas, bowls and / or transitions.

Also some skate trails appeared. See images below:

Image 4. Knox Skate Trail



Image 5. Johnston Street Reserve City of Maribyrnong



In recent years the trend for plazas has continued, similar to that found at Rutherford, but many (especially large regional skateparks have developed especially in foreshore and other central locations) have become integrated leisure facilities embracing a wide range of activities attractive to young people including art, music, performance, some with ball sport areas, seating and shade, skateable street elements, sculptural forms, and social venues, and many including bowls, street elements and transitions. See following Images of Geelong Youth Activities Area.

Murals and paintings and use of colour in the concrete skatepark design are now common as well as lighting, a high level of associated landscaping and associated amenities such as toilets and picnic facilities.



Recent youth plazas and skateparks have included many transitions and sculptural elements that are skateable in concrete, stone and other materials, but outside the traditional ramp design format. See Images the facility used by the 16<sup>th</sup> summer X games in Shanghai.

Image 6. **Geelong Youth Activities Area**



Image 7. **Geelong Youth Activities Area**



Image 8. **Belconnen Skate Park**

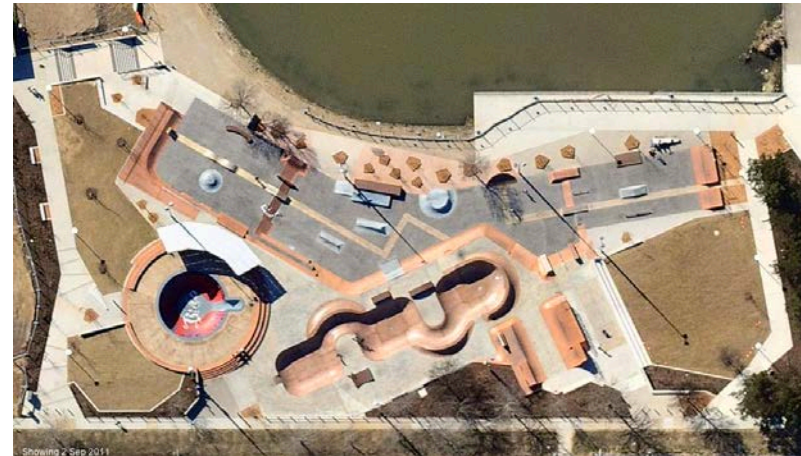


Image 9. **Belconnen Skate Park**



Image 10. SMP Skate Park, Shanghai – 16<sup>th</sup> Summer X Games Venue



Image 11. SMP Skate Park, Shanghai – 16<sup>th</sup> Summer X Games Venue



In the last 10 years there have been a number of indoor parks developed in public sites, as well additional private facilities.

The following images show the Shed and feature such as a resi and foam pit for training purposes.

Image 12. The Shed Skate Park, Cranbourne



Image 13. The Shed Skate Park, Cranbourne



Image 14. The Shed Skate Park, Cranbourne



## Trends in BMX

In the ninety eighties BMX tracks started to appear. These were traditional a circuit style track that replicated those used for racing. Racing tracks tend to be provided now on a regional basis only, however there has been some growth in competition in recent years, as the sport has become an Olympic sport. See following images.

Image 15. Park Orchards BMX Racing track



Image 16. Park Orchards BMX Racing track



Some steel ramps higher than for skateboarding were designed for BMX. See following image at Merinda Park in Cranbourne.

Image 17. Merinda Park BMX park



Other disciplines of BMX have become popular include: BMX freestyle that use urban infrastructure and skateparks, bowls, plazas, and vert ramps, riding of pump tracks, and dirt jumping. The following images show examples of BMX facilities.

In the last two decades BMX riding has diversified from largely racing (supercrosse), and freestyle and flatland, to include dirt jump and pump track riding.

These also cross over with MTB use. Sometimes the same tracks are being used for BMX racing as well as four cross MTB (even though they have slightly different requirements). Examples of pump tracks are shown below.

Image 18. Examples of pump tracks





Examples of different styles of jump parks are shown in the following images.

a) Consolidated gravel jumps tracks

Image 19. Altona BMX Jumps Course



b) Small combination circuits targeting young riders

Image 20. **Darley BMX track**



c) dirt jump doubles jumps

Image 21. **Sandringham BMX dirt jumps**



A small number of concrete BMX parks have been constructed: Merinda Park was one of the first street BMX areas to be constructed in Australia for BMX. It is very similar to that designed for skating in the 1990's but has larger ramps and higher rails etc. The Hill 'n' Dale BMX Park in the City of Boroondara replicates a dirt jumps track but is constructed in concrete. See image following.

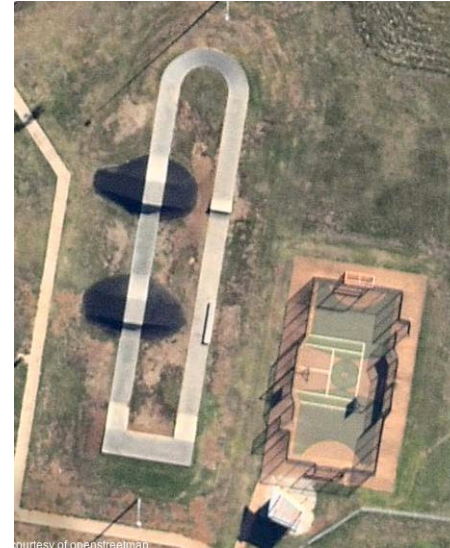
### Concrete BMX jumps parks

Image 22. Hill'n'Dale BMX Park



Other similar local concrete BMX jump areas have been constructed such as at Melton South. This area also has a “rage cage”- a ball sport area enclosed with wire mesh that caters for a range of hard court activities. See image below.

Image 23. Melton South BMX Track



## 1.4. Trends in use

Although it appears the core participation age in skateboarding and BMX action sports is around 12-15 years, in recent years the age of skateboard riders has broadened to include much more younger (5-8 yr olds), and additional older riders. The profile of the bulk of BMX riders tends to be older, and scooter riders tend to be younger (5-9 years).<sup>2</sup>

Skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX riders have used skateparks since the early 1980's. There have been fluctuations in the popularity of each code, and hence the dominance of one code over another at different facilities. In recent times there has been a considerable down turn in the number of in line "aggressive" skaters in relation to participation in other codes, and an increase in the use of freestyle BMX riders and scooter riders. The popularity of these activities like many sports fluctuates every four or more years and many of the sports have also diversified.

There are a large number of types of skateboard users. These include many types of boards – such as long boards and flex boards, which are used more for getting around or as a lifestyle accessory, and incidental street or yard use, rather than for free style park skating. Probably 40% of skateboard users do not use skateparks.

In many instances, use by specific disciplines depend on the nature of the area and their skill levels, and what disciplines are favoured, as well as the nature of local facilities and what they are suited to, and also how well the park has been constructed; especially bowls; whether there are smooth transitions', and the quality of the surface. It is not uncommon for bowls to be constructed and for them to be taken over by bikes because there are not good bowls to skate.

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<sup>2</sup> @leisure article for Kidsafe NSW 2011



## Injuries

The number of injuries in action sports fluctuates with participation rates. Monash University Accident Research Centre has been collating injury data from Victorian hospital presentations and emissions, since 2003. This data shows the numbers of injuries, location, the main cause of injury, body region, etc. The number of skateboarding injuries now, is much the same as those in 2003. BMX and scooter injuries have increased with participation. The number of scooter related injuries have tripled since 2006. The number of people injured in these sports is however far less than the football codes, for example.

The main cause of injury in skating sports is falls, where as in BMX it is transport. The main types of injuries are fractures of the wrist and hand, dislocations and sprains. For BMX and scooter riders the majority of injuries are to the head, shoulder and arm. Most injuries tend to be superficial, followed by fractures, for those related to BMX. Fractures are the most common for scooter riders. For all these activities males received more injuries than females, in line with participation.

The table below identifies key points related to inline skating, skateboarding, scooter and BMX injuries taken from the Monash University data, Victoria 2009.

**Table 1. Injury data for Skateboarding, BMX, and Inline skating Victoria 2009.**

Activity/ No.s of injuries <sup>3</sup> VAEM	Highest injury rates	Main Cause of Injury	Body Region	Type of Injury
Inline skating Injuries: 374 in 06 248 in 09	10 - 14 yrs (43%) 49% female	Falls (81%)	Wrist/Hand (30%) Elbow hand (30%)	Fracture (47%) Disloc/Sprain (27%)
Skateboard Injuries: 1262 in 06 1110 in 09	10 - 14 yrs (39%) 84% male	Falls (85%)	Wrist/Hand (25%) Elbow hand (21%)	Fracture (42%) Disloc/Sprain (25%)
BMX Injuries: 224 in 06 269 in 09	14-19 yrs (41%) 94% male	Transport (65%) Falls (28%)	Shoulder/Upper arm (28%) Head (65%)	Superficial injury (33%) Fracture (18%)
Scooter Injuries 306 in 2006 1058 in 2009 <sup>4</sup>	10-14yrs 53% 72% male	Falls 80%	Head (24%) Elbow/Forearm (22%)	Fracture (38%) Open wound (19%)

<sup>3</sup> VAED and VEMD Victoria. Raw data kindly provided by Monash University Accident Research Centre. Injuries are total presentations to key Victorian hospitals with emergency departments and emission to those hospitals. Note 2009 figures have been used as 2010 only apply to Jan – June 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Only up to 17 yrs

There are differences in the nature and severity of injuries acquired from different activities and these will be influenced by the nature of the facility, the age of the riders, and whether protective equipment is worn. An increase of older people have returned to skateboarding as it has matured, and the lack of fitness and flexibility of older skilled riders appear to be influencing injuries.

### Trends in management

There have been some key changes in management of skateparks since the early 2000. There has been the acknowledgement that there is value in providing sports development and human/ community development opportunities as available in other sports, and specific place management tasks associated with the facilities.

It is not uncommon for large parks to be supervised, to have a regular program of activities including programming, competitions and music events, sports development activities, clinics, holiday programs and camps.

Sports development activities may include: learn to skate programs, clinics and demonstrations, competitions and events, and ongoing coaching and supervision of skateparks

Youth/human development activities may include programs that seek to: increase ownership of the spaces, reduce vandalism, reduce antisocial behaviour, provide preventative health programs to young people, mentor programs, and increase participation and empower users, as well as develop dialogue with users, and etc.

A number of Council's provide staff at skateparks and /or provide programming or young peoples support programs affiliated and co-located with skateparks to enhance the values for users, and to effectively be able to program the spaces, run events etc. Some Council's utilise contract management of skate facilities in a similar way to how a leisure centre is being managed, or employ part time or holiday staff for coaching, support and supervision.

Events have become key elements in skatepark management as well as youth development programs, jams and other skill based programs such as 'Streetwise' – a national grassroots development program designed to offer young people an opportunity to be involved in skateboarding clinics conducted by some of Australia's best skaters who have completed the Australian Sports Commissions (ASC) National Coach Accreditation Scheme (NCAS) skateboarding course.

The following image shows one such program being conducted at Highpoint Shopping Centre.

Image 24. Streetwise – conducted at Highpoint Shopping Centre



In other places, such as Tokyo, there has been a trend towards public private partnerships in redevelopment and management of outdoor skateparks to be taken over / to deliver a better service, on the basis of being able to charge a fee for entry.

There also have been indoor parks developed of a high standard that may have an entry fee. Some examples of larger centres that provide private or fee for entry indoor centres are: Monster in Sydney, Rampfest in Braybrook, Victoria and The Shed in Cranbourne, Victoria.

Many indoor skate facilities offer fee for service programs, cafes or kiosks and merchandise and apparel.

The indoor skatepark “the Shed” in the City of Casey is managed as a joint partnership between a contractor and Council. The contractor is paid a fee that covers management and operating costs. Council is responsible for major cyclic maintenance costs.

Whilst these arrangements may not be appropriate for a regional town where the market is relatively small and affordability may be an issue.

## 1.5. Other activities

Young people typically participate in a wide range of social recreation activities outdoors. Normally these include ball sports, such as basketball and games such as four square.

Participation in basketball has fluctuated over the years, declining from 2003 to 2006, and then increasing again to 2009..

An Australian Sports Commission survey<sup>5</sup> of upper-primary and lower-secondary school-age children identified basketball to be the second most popular sport. Together, the top 5 sports accounted for about two-thirds of all time children spent playing sport. These sports, in order of participation, include basketball, soccer, AFL, cricket and netball – all sports that can be catered for on outdoor hard courts, or associated green space for recreational purposes.

Half-court outdoor basketball courts became popular throughout the 1990's, however the limited space, size and single purpose nature of half-court basketball courts limits the potential for the space to be used for other sports i.e. soccer, netball, tennis, ‘four-square’ etc. A full size netball court provides greater opportunities..

In recent times, a number of Councils have been providing skate facilities in conjunction with support infrastructure to facilitate social gathering and family recreation (e.g. seating, shelters, BBQ, drinking taps etc.). As well as integrating skate / BMX facilities with other park facilities and co-located with playgrounds, to foster broader ‘youth’ precincts. These areas can include a range of other activities and / or facilities such as:

- Stage areas
- Public toilets
- Seating, tables and social gathering spaces
- Agility / fitness structures
- Climbing walls / nets

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<sup>5</sup> Children and Sport, Australian Sports Commission / University of South Australia, 2004

- Tennis 'hit-up' wall
- Outdoor table tennis tables
- Access to music sources, Wi-Fi etc.
- Combined goal posts for sports such as soccer and AFL

The following image shows a high fenced area providing for a range of ball sport such as basketball, netball and soccer introduced by the YMCA in the 1990s' and called "Rage Cages".

Image 25. **Aspendale Gardens Community Centre Youth Centre**



The following images show Redlands Youth Plaza - a regional sized youth space that provides facilities for skateboarding, BMX riding, music, cultural activities and a performance space.

Image 26. **Redlands Youth Plaza**



Image 27. **Redcliffe Youth Space, South East Queensland**



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## 2. Summary of demographic influences on demand for youth spaces

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### 2.1. Number of young people likely to use outdoor spaces

Of the 2011 population, 28% are young people (5-24 years), which equates to some 20,300 people. This figure is expected to increase by 38.2% to 26,130 by 2036, however there is an expected 4% drop in the proportion of young people by 2036 (24%).

Currently there is an estimated 7,165 Maitland young people who ride a bike. This number is estimated to increase to some 9,296 by 2036.

Additionally, there is an estimated 5,208 Maitland young people who skateboard / ride a scooter / rollerblade or participate in other roller sports. This number is estimated to increase to 6,786 by 2036.

There is also an estimated 294 Maitland young people who participate in non-organised / recreational basketball. This number is expected to increase to 378 by 2036.

Collectively, there is an estimated 12,667 Maitland young people who participate in youth space orientated physical activities. This is estimated to grow by 30% to some 16,460 young people.

### 2.2. Demographic influences on demand

Children in families with two parents (47.1% in Maitland) where both parents are working have a high odds ratio (1.52) of participation and are more likely to participate in sport and physical activities.

The high employment rate seen in Maitland (93.5%) could indicate a likelihood that both parents of dependent children are employed, and hence likelihood for high participation in sport or physical activities such as those found at youth spaces.

Children of over 17% of Maitland's families may have a low propensity to participate in sport or physical activity, as in single parent families where the parent is employed, children are less likely to participate (0.84) and less likely again if the single parent is not working (0.51).

The City of Maitland has a low percentage of the population born overseas (7%). An even smaller percentage of the population was born in non-English speaking countries (3.1%).

However, the small proportion of people from non-English speaking backgrounds is unlikely to significantly impact on participation rates in sport and physical activities for Maitland's young people.

Changes from the 2001 to 2006 Census show a slight decrease in the lowest and medium lowest household income groups in Maitland, and consequently an increase in the medium highest and highest household income groups.

Families with higher disposable incomes are more likely to spend money on travel and equipment to participate in sport and outdoor recreation activities such as skateboarding, and riding a BMX or scooter.

As access to youth spaces in a local neighbourhood is generally free of charge, local skateparks are potentially very important in providing accessible, low cost opportunities for young people's recreation. These may provide positive health outcomes to people who would otherwise be "at risk".

In 2006 the greatest proportion (more than 50%) of households owned two vehicles or more. However, with limited public transport, and 73.5% of households using a car to get to work, and more than 8% of families not owning a vehicle, many households will not have access to a car.

This means that transportation to and from youth spaces could be an issue for Maitland's young people.

At as the 2006 Census, 64.8% of households in Maitland had no internet connection or a dial up connection, and 29.3% had broadband connectivity.

Children who do not use a computer or the internet at home are also less likely to participate in sport of physical activity (odds ratio of 0.55).

The low access to adequate internet connections in Maitland highlight the need to use more conventional hands-on techniques for engagement and promotion, such as the use of mobile phones, but also the lower propensity of Maitland's younger people to participate in activities found at youth spaces.

In 2006, Maitland has a SEIFA index of 992.0, ranking it the fourth least disadvantaged area in the Hunter region. This figure indicates a relatively affluent community.

Woodberry is the most disadvantaged area with an index of 869.8, while Bolwarra and District is the least disadvantaged area with an SEIFA index of 1083.4.

Young people in the area's that are most disadvantaged are more likely to require interventions and opportunities to participate in physical activity as a result of the combination of barriers associated with low socio-economic status. It is these areas that should be priorities for implementation of interventions and the provision of supporting environments such as youth spaces, close to home.

### 3. Summary of consultation findings

A community engagement strategy was undertaken that included the following:

- A press release was distributed and submissions from interested stakeholders invited
- Public workshops were held at the six skatepark locations across Maitland
- Telephone interviews were undertaken with a variety of stakeholders including retail outlets, service providers and reference groups
- An online survey was posted and advertised via the press release, posters and newspaper articles
- Comments were invited on facebook
- Comments and submissions were invited on a project specific consultation website to obtain user preferences, current issues, future opportunities and preferences for location
- Council staff and stakeholder workshops were conducted

All consultation methods were advertised via posters in schools, retail outlets, and libraries and at the six different skatepark locations in Maitland. A press release was distributed to reference groups and articles submitted to the local newspaper.

#### 3.1. Key findings

A number of key findings and issues were identified from the consultation. These were:

1. Use of youth spaces is predominantly by scooters and BMX riders. The main parks used are Maitland and Rutherford Youth Spaces.
2. There are opportunities for young people, especially females to be more engaged especially through events, programmed activities and in management roles
3. There are areas not well served and potential new locations for youth spaces
4. There is a need for alternative recreational activities- not just skateparks
5. Site upgrades and improvements are required on all existing sites
6. The condition and maintenance of youth spaces needs attention

#### Trends in use of youth spaces

##### *Use of existing spaces*

The online survey identified the two Maitland skateparks as being the most used youth spaces in Maitland, closely followed by the Rutherford Youth Space. Additionally, riding a scooter was found to be the main activity undertaken at youth spaces, closely followed by 'hanging out', riding a BMX and skateboarding. In line with the increased participation, it was noted that there is a lot younger people riding scooters than in previous times.

The BMX / scooter scene was noted as being on the increase, with BMX being especially popular around the Newcastle area.

Scooter and BMX riding were both highlighted as experiencing growth in participation; however skateboarding is declining in participation compared to the other actions sports.

In BMX there has been a large growth in younger competition riders between 5-12 years.

### ***Preferences for facilities***

Skateboarders preferences are to use street sections, and ideally a large bowl, rather than the typical 'skatepark' currently provided that are dominated by BMX riders and scooters. It was also noted that BMX riders who ride dirt, generally don't ride parks, however there is nowhere for dirt riding in Maitland.

The skateparks in Maitland are used as a hangout area for young people. A parent noted that if they weren't at the park, they wouldn't have anything else to do and would potentially be out "causing trouble".

The majority of respondents to the online survey identified that skateparks and / or sports fields are important spaces for young people. However, not many girls use skateparks and the surrounding youth spaces other than very young children with parents etc.

Respondents to the online survey also said:

- 'With the rising population in the Hunter region, with vast areas of new housing being developed, there is a need for a place where our young people can interact socially while feeling safe'

- 'The skatepark in Maitland is hugely popular among the local young people'
- 'I think that skateparks or a place where they can ride their bikes, skate boards or scooters in safe environment is important for young people, so they aren't riding on roads and car parks'

### ***Retail stores***

Drift Bikes retail store in Maitland was identified as a big player in the strong BMX scene around Maitland. Hadely Cycles in Maitland also sell scooters and BMX bikes. However, more scooter and bike shops were seen as being needed in the broader Maitland area.

It was also noted that there were no skateboard retail stores in the area (other than 50-50 in Newcastle, Hunter Valley Skate Shop In Mayfield, Switch Boardstore in King Street, Newcastle, and at Stockland in Glendale).

One respondent mentioned that Mutts Scooter Shack were keen sponsors of events in the area.

### **Opportunities for young people's engagement**

#### ***Events / competitions***

The idea of holding 'jams' and competitions at skateparks was highlighted numerous times throughout consultation, and was a recurring theme in consultation with users of each skatepark. It was thought that such events could include little competitions such as best trick, highest bunny hop etc.

It was felt that if a jam day was organised and advertised, it would attract a lot of people, with users identifying that they would be interested in helping Council to organise such events.



A parent at the Metford Recreation Reserve skatepark noted that competitions could be held on Friday nights, with things such as a \$2 entry fee and the collected money going toward making the skatepark better. Competitions could be run between the different skateparks, giving another outlet to gain the team atmosphere that is found in other sports.

It was also noted that parents would be interested in helping to organise and / or run such competitions.

It was highlighted that the best way for Council to get young people actively involved in competitions and other things is to go on site at the skateparks and speak to the users directly. Promotion and marketing can be done via posters being displayed and flyers being handed out at the skateparks and through schools. Additionally, social networking pages were highlighted as options for young people's engagement.

School and youth organisation, local interagency, and parent involvement were highlighted as good options to enhance the relationship between skateparks and young people.

One respondent said: skateboarding and other activities are a respect orientated activity, so hiring those in the community who have already established that respect of other users is a good way to go". Another said: "Kids want to be involved in what happens at facilities, they just need to be given the opportunity."

Users of the Harold Gregson Reserve skatepark identified that an ideal way to get younger people involved is through retail stores, specifically Drift Bikes, as a lot of people hang out at the store and use it as a meeting place.

The lack of opportunities to learn, programmed activities targeting girls, the lack of support facilities and places to sit at parks and the conditions of facilities mean that girls are less like to be involved in and visit skateparks. It was also noted that facilities are often targeted at young males, and girls are left out of the thought process for design.

Retail stores could also be enlisted to support any jam days by providing prizes and incentives, much like Mutts Scooter Shack has previously.

#### ***What others have done in this area***

The northwest skate league is partnership between 13 local government areas in the northeast Melbourne metro councils, the YMC and the Victorian Skateboard Association. It brings a rotating competition to skateparks in these municipalities. The competition caters 12 and under, 16 and under, open female and open category skate and BMX competitions. It is an alcohol free and helmet on event. The league also involves local stores and skate scooter and BMX companies.

Council could hold a similar program in conjunction with the Newcastle City Council and Cessnock City Council.

#### ***Site specific management opportunities***

Users of the Harold Gregson Reserve skatepark and Rutherford Youth Space noted that the provision of a locked shed or similar storage space that contained brooms and other assorted maintenance utilities (i.e. a scraper to scrape paint off surfaces) would encourage users to actively maintain the park to a better standard.

They also noted that a local shop could hold a key to access the locked storage facility, with users potentially handing in a wallet or something similar in exchange for temporary use of the key.

**What others have done in this area**

The image below shows a storage facility in the Adelaide BMX Park.



Users of the Rutherford Youth Space also noted that an area where they could store items such as mattresses (which are commonly used as a landing area for users to attempt new tricks) would be good. Any mattresses that are currently brought to the site and left there get taken away. Users also noted that the mattresses look bad when left lying around the skatepark.



**What others have done in this area**

The image above shows how riders (at Largs Skate park) use mattresses to hone their skills without fear of injury. In indoor parks it is common to provide foam outs: See images of The Shed on page 9. It is not common to provide these outdoor. Therefore a storage facility makes more sense if there is a building nearby.

Users of the Thornton skatepark noted that the PCYC used to run sausage sizzles every second Thursday that attracted quite a lot of people.

Users of the skatepark at Fred Harvey Sports Centre in Woodberry noted that if programs and other events were ran at the skatepark they would be inclined to get involved more. They also noted that the Family centre used to organise things such as spray-painting etc. at the site, and that on Mondays, the Samaritan Foundation run what is called “drop zone” at the community hall close by. Both programs attracted good numbers.

**What others have done in this area**

A number of Councils run sports development or youth programs at skate facilities or provide part supervision of skate facilities in peak periods such as during school holidays or after school. Some contract individuals to provide informal coaching and skill development or management agencies such as the YMCA to run programs. This is sometimes provided as part of a management contract with other leisure facilities such as sports stadiums or aquatic facilities.

The provision of a public art / mural wall was noted as a good idea throughout all consultation mediums, in the hope that it may detract from unwanted graffiti on skatepark surfaces. One respondent to the survey said, "I personally would like to see a Mural Wall (Not so much a graffiti legal wall like the one that was down Newcastle beach) that could be applied for use through the Council or art gallery. Something where a design outline would have to be submitted. This I feel very strongly about as there is no where you can paint and express your self artistically unless you put it in a gallery."

The following image shows art boards at Rutherford Skate Park.



## Underserved areas and potential locations of new youth spaces

### *Travel to youth spaces*

User groups at all sites identified that if there were a top-level skatepark available, they would travel to use it. Many users currently travel outside of the Maitland area to use parks that are perceived as better i.e. Newcastle.

The online survey found that 83% of the respondents travel more than 1 km to get to youth spaces and that respondents would like more facilities and / or development of existing facilities for skateboarding / scooter riding / BMX riding.

Transportation to youth spaces was raised as an issue as some areas in Maitland are only served by one facility, and access is not always available for young people.

### *Potential locations*

The areas of East Maitland and Green Hills were common areas that were put forward in consultation for additional provision, as there are currently no spaces in these areas.

Respondents to the online survey stated:

'We live at East Maitland next to East Maitland swimming pool. I have a 9 year old son, who he and all his mates are very keen scooter riders and we have to pack all the kids up and take them to Rutherford so they can ride at a good skatepark'

'I think a good skatepark like the one at Rutherford or the ones in Newcastle would be great near the East Maitland swimming pool. There are two big full high school within 2km of the pool, but nowhere that they can ride bikes or scooter etc. besides the streets

A respondent to the online survey also noted that there was potential for a basketball court in the Rutherford area.

Other areas listed where new youth spaces could be provided included:

- Law St (where the parkland is)
- Beresfield
- Tenambit
- Lochinvar
- Aberglassyn
- Across the road from the Maitland Gaol
- BMX track closer than the one in Tenambit
- Rutherford – would be better than putting one in Maitland or East Maitland as there are no pubs around.
- Bolwarra Heights
- Thornton
- Cliffleigh
- Ashtonfield
- Somerset Park
- Green Hill Gardens
- Near St. Peters school (Maitland).

The location of future parks should not be near pubs or clubs. This was also raised as an issue, as it often results in drunken behaviour of people over 18 in and around the skateparks, and the misuse of facilities.

### Alternative recreational activities

There were a number of recreational activities and / or facilities that were raised throughout consultation as being something or somewhere that the community would like to participate in or visit, but currently are unable to, including:

- Mountain bike facility
- Safe public areas
- Putt-putt golf
- Laser tag
- Sporting fields and competitions such as touch football and social basketball
- A venue or service attached to the local shopping precincts
- Playground activities and other more adventurous activities such as swing sets and climbing obstacles
- Other action sports/ outdoor adventure activities like Tree-Top climbing facility in Yarramalong
- Paintball
- A pool
- A theme park
- A waterslide
- Designated graffiti / public art walls
- Areas for young people to hang out at night time
- Musical activities such as band days

It was noted that generally year 8 and 9 young people attend the Blue Light Disco's that are held, however they predominantly aren't the same users who attend skateparks.

The online survey identified a common theme of respondents identifying football as an activity that they would like to do outdoors but currently do not.

Several respondents mentioned BMX dirt facilities and MTB trails are required. 'There are next to no mountain biking areas in Maitland. The only real areas worth riding are currently the spots of bushland surrounding Ashtonfield, Thornton, Beresfield and Walka Water Works, which are slowly being taken over by housing estates. Some trails out in the hills towards Maitland Vale area would be great'.

### Both indoor and outdoor areas

Users identified that an indoor facility would be heavily used and would attract users from neighbouring areas. One advantage of an indoor youth space, identified by several stakeholders was the ability to supervise the space and manage use, especially unintended users who cause damage at skateparks.

Indoor parks mentioned in the consultation included the following:

The Shed, in Cranbourne Vic, Monster at Sydney Olympic Park, Rampfest (private) in Braybrook Vic and Slam Factory (private) in Tuggerah. Some other community sector organisations said they run small skate and other youth related activities from Halls another indoor recreation centres. Images of the Shed are shown on page 9.

### Site improvements to skateparks

Additionally, if lights were introduced at skateparks, it was identified that usage would significantly increase.

#### **What others have done in this area**

It is not uncommon to provide lights on timers at skateparks. However the condition, maintenance and management of parks would need to be improved before additional risks associated with skating at night would be overcome.

Respondents of the online survey and consultation session attendees alike identified the need for bins and graffiti removal. The provision of metal bins to stop the melting and destruction of normal bins was also raised at numerous consultation sessions.

The need to have access to water and the location of bubblers at youth spaces was raised at numerous consultation sessions.

Having access to music facilities was highlighted as one improvement that would be welcomed at all skateparks. The option of having a power box to plug own systems into, or alternatively access to speakers where users could plug their iPod or phones into was raised as methods for doing this.

A key element identified required at skatepark by users was seating for user and their friends and family. These facilities are placed where young people gather to socialise and little or no support facilities are provided to enable this.

The online survey found that a number of respondents would like a girl's only skatepark with elements such as mirrors, pink and purple coloured ramps and rails, and change rooms.

A number of stakeholders identified that the design of skateparks in Maitland was out of date, and almost identical in nature across all spaces.

Several people indicated that it would be good to have a mural wall at youth spaces. Not for graffiti by young peoples art: 'I personally would like to see a Mural Wall that could be applied for use through the Council or art gallery. Something where a design outline would have to be submitted. This I feel strongly about as there is no where you can paint and express yourself artistically unless you put it in a gallery'.

Common upgrades and improvements were identified across all skateparks. These included:

- skateable or rideable elements such as: vert walls, bowls, bigger elements, mini's, boxes, more street elements, a foam pit, spines, and formalised dirt sections behind quarter pipes to use as boxes
- support facilities such as: music / access to speakers, lights, BBQ facilities public art / graffiti walls, shade / shelter, trees (including fruit trees)

### Overall condition of youth spaces

There was a consensus across users that they do not like the graffiti that occurs at the skateparks, as it is generally tagging, and a poor artistic standard. Graffiti to a high standard is welcome around the outside of parks and on the backs of quarter-pipes etc., but not on the ramp and park surfaces. A clean surface all across the park is ideal.

If a graffiti / public wall was available it would be ideal. Something similar to the one at Newcastle is preferred, which is repainted and upgraded every couple of years, which seems to stop people from putting graffiti on it.

#### **What others have done in this area**

It is not uncommon for Council to repaint the non-skateable areas of skateparks every day or so. Skateable surfaces need to be kept paint free and care needs to be taken in removing paint so as not to damage the surface. Some parks like Frankston were highly decorated, however as high quality paintings will ultimately wear and fade they are difficult to keep looking good. Wall murals may be more easily managed. (Council shouldn't use anti-graffiti paint, which is slippery).

See images of below:

Image 28. Frankston Skate Park with paintings



Vandalism such as the melting of bins was identified as an issue at numerous skateparks.

The online survey found that users rated the condition of each youth space in Maitland to be good overall (59%), and that the youth spaces were well maintained (65%). Other stakeholders were less complimentary of the condition of the skateparks, perhaps due to familiarity of other parks and their condition, elsewhere.

A number of stakeholders and several respondents noted that ‘the current BMX / skate facilities in Maitland is very outdated and could do with major improvements to meet the standards of those provided to the public in areas like Newcastle, Sydney and Canberra’.

The location of some parks near pubs or clubs was also raised as an issue as it often results in drunken behaviour of people over 18 in and around the skateparks, and the misuse of facilities.

### 3.2. Site specific findings

Individual site comments are outlined in the following pages under each of the seven skateparks in Maitland.

#### **Maitland Sportsground Skate Park**

It was identified that the location of the skatepark is perfect, as it is close to the train station and local shops. The fact that it is secluded was also highlighted as a positive as it means that there are no issues with residents.

There are no bins or toilets available for use at the site and rubbish is just left lying around as a result. The current maintenance levels at the skatepark are considered sufficient, by users, however Council (and the police) could monitor the park more regularly.

Users noted that the skatepark’s surface is very rough and can realistically only be used by BMX riders. Additionally, the skatepark is used just as much as the newer skatepark located nearby at Harold Gregson Reserve, but primarily only when users get bored of that skatepark.

## Harold Gregson Reserve Skate Park, Maitland

### *Nature of existing site*

A number of comments were made about the nature of use and primary function of the skatepark including:

- The current skatepark is to a good standard, but users wanted something that they can progress to, as their skill level can only be developed so far with the park at its current standard
- The park is in a perfect location as it is close to the train station and local shops
- The park is heavily used, primarily by BMX riders. The online survey however found that riding a scooter was the most participated in activity at the site
- The older skatepark (near Maitland Sportsground) is used just as much as this newer park, but is primarily used if people get bored of using the newer park
- The coping at this park is ideal, unlike the Rutherford Youth Space which sticks out too far
- There are no bins or toilets available for use at the site and rubbish is just left lying around as a result
- The park needs to be more technical, with better elements incorporated into the design i.e. bigger transitions
- Users like that the park is secluded, in turn meaning that there are no issues with residents

### *Condition and maintenance*

A number of comments were made about the current condition and maintenance of the skatepark including:

- Current maintenance levels considered by users as sufficient, however Council could monitor the park more regularly
- Glass on the skatepark is a regular occurrence and causes issues with punctures of tyres etc.
- Grass surrounding the skatepark is full of cat heads / cat eyes and these also lead to punctures
- If there are rocks on the park, users noted that they break a branch off of the trees to sweep it.
- The skatepark pools a lot of water when it rains and better drainage is required
- A survey respondent noted, 'Both Maitland skateparks are very basic and could do with a more current design to complement BMX and scooter riding rather than skateboarding in the 80's'



### **Site improvements**

A number of comments and ideas were made about improving the skatepark including:

- Introduce new elements that cater for higher skill levels
- Create different sections catering for a range of skill levels and ages
- Different sections would also create multiple lines and allow multiple users to use at once
- Incorporate a street section with stairs, rails and ledges
- A really big bowl could be put here, as it is far enough away from houses that it won't cause issues with residents, yes is close to local shops and train station.
- A formalised path to the skatepark is needed
- Some form of shelter is required over the park as in the afternoon when the sun sets it is directly in riders eyes
- There is a lot of available space for park upgrades and extensions

### **Largs Skate Park**

#### **Nature of existing site**

A number of comments were made about the nature of use and primary function of the skatepark including:

- Both bikes and scooter riders use this park. The online survey found that the majority of respondents who use this facility are scooters (44%)
- There is minimal anti-social behaviour that occurs at the site, likely due to the close proximity of residents
- The surface is good for grip at this park compared to other parks (as they have anti-graffiti concrete and paint which is slippery)
- The site is small and gets easily overcrowded when there are multiple users
- Toilets aren't accessible, they have been locked for a long period of time
- The fence around the park is pointless. It is too small to stop anything from exiting etc. but limits the riding / skating area
- There is no seating available, other than sitting on the roll-in
- There is no available shade other than one tree
- There are young people who don't ride or skate that come and graffiti and vandalise the site

### **Condition and maintenance**

A number of comments were made about the current condition and maintenance of the skatepark including:

- The associated tennis court is in bad condition and is considered an eyesore by users
- Bins turn up at site every now and then, sit at the site for a period of time and are then taken away. The bins are hardly used when they are here so permanent bins probably aren't needed. Perhaps as the park is so close to most users home.
- Users of the park built piles of dirt behind quarter-pipe to use for larger jumps, but Council then knocked it down and proceeded to put more dirt there again at a later date that was full of stones and rocks etc. The users proceeded to shape the dumped dirt into a more formalised landing area.
- The maintenance of the site is considered by users generally to be a good standard
- When mowing occurs around the skatepark, cut grass is left on edges of park creating hazards for users

### **Site improvements**

A number of comments and ideas were made about improving the skatepark including:

- Currently some users drive their cars nearby the site to listen to music while skating / riding, and so access to permanent facilities such as speakers would be good
- Lighting – users occasionally drive cars in and use headlights for lighting when skating / riding at night
- Introduce seating
- Replace existing unused tennis court with a new skatepark. Could utilise this space to create two sections; a bike section and a scooter section
- Concrete the end where the roll-in is and put seats there
- The box that is currently a part of the run for the left hand side quarter-pipe isn't used much and could be replaced with a spine
- The run incorporating the right hand side quarter-pipe is good and a formalised dirt ramp behind it would be good
- There used to be a log along the side of the park that was used as seating by both young people, and parents that were watching. It has since been removed, but the simple feature of a log on the ground was so well utilised, and highlights the need for seating at the site

## Rutherford Youth Space

### *Nature of existing site*

A number of comments were made about the nature of use and primary function of the skatepark including:

- Users noted that they feel safe attending this skatepark as not many of the past troublemakers come to the site anymore, and that it is well situated being close to shops
- A lot of young people use the space as somewhere to 'hang-out', and it is somewhat of a meeting point
- The bevelled edge that is used on the coping on the quarter-pipe closest to the exit stairs is seen as good as it provides something different. This particular area was observed to be in high use with the bevelled edged coping used as a focus of many riders / skaters runs
- The park is used primarily by scooter riders, as found in consultation sessions at the site, and from the online survey (74% of respondents)
- Users noted that the split design of the skatepark is OK and that primarily skateboarders use the section closest to the playground
- Only two BMX riders were said to use this facility
- There is probably 4 or 5 girls in Rutherford that ride
- A lot of young children with their parents come to the park, primarily using the area closest to KFC

### *Condition and maintenance*

A number of comments were made about the current condition and maintenance of the skatepark including:

- Users noted that the site is generally clean of debris and that drainage of park when its wet, is OK
- The surface is smooth to ride on and to a good standard
- Graffiti doesn't get cleaned off regularly
- Users noted that the maintenance standards of the skatepark is generally OK
- No bins are currently available for use as people have burnt and melted them previously, which in turn has led to lots of rubbish being left around the park
- The roll-in closest to the drain is rough and needs to be fixed

### *Site improvements*

A number of comments and ideas were made about improving the skatepark including:

- Additional bins are required
- Additional seating is required
- Shaded areas are required
- The pyramid that is currently in the middle of the section closest to KFC should be changed to be a box.
- Users noted that Council should upgrade the facilities that are currently at the site, rather than add anything new or make new spaces in the area.

- A public phone was identified as something that could improve the park
- Get rid of the fence in the middle of the park where the seating is.
- Put a concrete bike track in between the two skateparks.
- Concrete the dirt area on the side of the skatepark near the playground
- Get rid of the seats that are at the skatepark near the playground and make it all concrete so we have room to use the existing box that is there.
- When concreting the outer edge of the skatepark, maybe put a gap in the concrete at the halfway point of the stair element, which would add an extra element and something to do tricks over.
- Put a ledge on the outside edge of the additional concrete along the same section where the stair element is too.
- Keep the big concrete area at the bottom of the stairs as is. We use the area for landing.
- Could put a basketball ring at end of the concrete landing area, closest to playground. Put it on top of the shelter that is already there, we would use it for mucking around with a ball, even on our skateboard too.

## Metford Recreation Reserve Skate Park

### *Nature of existing site*

A number of comments were made about the nature of use and primary function of the skatepark including:

- Scooter and bike riders are the primary users at the skatepark. Occasionally there are skateboarders.
- Users noted that the park would be boring if the dirt mound behind the jump wasn't there.
- There is a tendency for anti-social behaviour at the site with some people having previously lit fires and smashed bottles on and around the skatepark
- Users noted that they do feel safe using the skatepark, however have previously had issues with anti-social behaviour from some people (including the attempted sale of a stolen bike and other assorted instances)
- The basketball court at the site is rarely used, if at all. There is generally a lot of glass on the court leading to balls likely to get popped, and the nets are of a poor standard. This is why there is minimal use.
- Scooters are the big craze in the area.
- A lot of young children use the park, including girls.
- The skatepark is used as a hangout area for young people. A parent noted that if they weren't at the park, they wouldn't have anything else to do
- A lot of the users of the park play footy

- There is a good atmosphere at the skatepark as all of the young people that use the skatepark know each other
- Occasionally the parents come down and watch their children use the park
- A parent noted that some days there are up to 40 people using the park, and that even at 8:30 am there are people using the skatepark
- Users indicated that the skatepark is used everyday of the week, with the most use occurring on weekdays after school.
- There isn't much else to do in Metford, so all of the young people in the area come to the skatepark
- Girls generally do attend the site, but usually sit on the grandstand to the side.

#### ***Condition and maintenance***

A number of comments were made about the current condition and maintenance of the skatepark including:

- Poor drainage. Generally takes a day or two to dry out.
- At the bottom of the box, the cement has started peeling and it has created an issue previously with users grazing themselves on the poor surface
- The space needs greater maintenance done to it.
- There are no bins so rubbish is generally found all over the park
- The elderly gentleman across the road lends users his broom to clean up the park and get rid of glass etc.
- He also comes across and picks up rubbish etc.

- There are no available toilets at the site.

#### ***Site improvements***

A number of comments and ideas were made about improving the skatepark including:

- Area to ride a dirt bike is needed in the area, as a lot of people around Metford and Kurri have motorbikes, but nowhere to ride them.
- A BMX track and dirt bike track in the same area would be ideal.
- Get rid of the basketball court as it is hardly used and put a bowl there or make the park larger.
- Brand new painting all over the park.
- A new drainage system
- The trees behind the jump where the dirt mound is should be cut down so that users can ride there.
- Introduction of metal bins so that they cannot be taken out and would stop people from wrecking them
- Seating, so that users don't have to sit on the box that forms a part of the skatepark like they do now
- A large spine in the middle like at Kurri would be an ideal addition.
- Formalise and cement the back of the quarter-pipe
- Rails are required where the roll-ins are, but not where the jump with the dirt mound behind it is currently.

- In the space where the basketball court is currently, a quarter-pipe could be put in on one side with a large quarter-pipe at the opposite end
- Council should fix up all of the little transitions that are currently at the skatepark and make them smooth again, with no gaps in the surface
- “Us parents, we come down and watch the kids, some of them are unbelievable! We couldn’t do the things that they are doing when we were kids. There are kids down here that do flips and things! They need something bigger so that they can go on and become like X fighter riders and things.”  
(parent)

## Thornton Skate Park

### *Nature of existing site*

A number of comments were made about the nature of use and primary function of the skatepark including:

- Nobody uses the basketball court as there is always glass on the court
- Bikes are the primary users of this skatepark, followed by scooters and then skateboarders
- There are a lot of users who use the park before school at around 7:30 am, generally in the region of 20 young people
- There are a lot of older young people who sit at the playground area and on the skatepark itself and are generally the people who participate in anti-social behaviour. They have been known to smoke, melt the bins, throw things on the skatepark etc. If there was seating available at the site it could potentially remove them from being directly on the park
- Some people have previously brought their iPod dock down to listen to music at the site. Access to speakers or something similar would be ideal.
- Users at this site noted that Woodberry Skate Park wasn’t very good, and that too many “bad kids” were there. There were a number of gangs at the park in summer later on at nights, but users noted that this doesn’t occur much anymore and they feel safe at this site.

- The graffiti wall that is currently at the site does not get used anymore as the people who used to use it got in trouble. These young people were generally around 15/16 years
- The school across the road doesn't use the skatepark at all, however they do utilise the tennis courts that are close by for sport classes
- The BBQ facilities are never used as the buttons were taken off because people were leaving it running.
- When soccer games are on, there are a lot of younger people who use the skatepark and get in the way of the older users

#### **Condition and maintenance**

A number of comments were made about the current condition and maintenance of the skatepark including:

- maintenance at this park was terrible and that nobody treats the park well. People melt the bins that are here
- The area doesn't get cleaned often. User's noted that they generally see the same debris and rubbish at the site for a period of time and would like it to be maintained more often
- If there is glass on the skatepark user's noted that they generally just kick it off, or sometimes the Opportunity Shop close by will allow them to borrow their broom to sweep
- The separation of the joint of the quarter-pipes are too big and they have caused issues with people falling and getting injured
- There is always debris and assorted things left lying around (at the time of visiting the site there was a disused trolley left lying in the middle of the skatepark)

- Poor drainage and surface gets wet easily
- There was previously a railing behind the quarter-pipe that was cut down numerous times, and now there is a dirt mound there
- There is broken glass, rock and other assorted materials in the dirt mound behind the quarter-pipe
- Users noted that they like the dirt mound being there as it allows them to do more tricks

#### **Site improvements**

'A number of comments and ideas were made about improving the skatepark including:

- Make the dirt mound more like a flat top so it has a longer area to jump and land
- Provide a better swing set
- Provide a roof or better drainage system
- Provide a metal quarter-pipe as they are more fun
- Provide a flying fox at the playground
- The path in and out of the site needs to be formalised and concreted as user's noted that they get punctures riding through the dirt tracks
- Make the park longer, like the Woodberry skatepark
- Provide a separate section for younger users as there are a lot that use the park and there has been collisions previously
- Provide a hip, to allow transition diagonally from one side to another

- Make the site similar to Wallsend but larger
- Provide a trees for shade, however that would cause problems with leaves and debris on the park
- Provide a bike rack to “park” bikes rather than scratching them by putting them on the ground
- Additional bins and metal bins are needed to stop people from melting them

### **Fred Harvey Sports Centre Skate Park, Woodberry**

#### ***Nature of existing site***

A number of comments were made about the nature of use and primary function of the skatepark including:

- Users liked that the site was close to shops
- The dirt bike track is never used, as the soil is too loose.
- The skatepark is generally used by scooters and bikes.
- An older young person gave up skateboarding for a while, but are now getting back into it due to the new quarter-pipe that was put in
- A lot of people use the park as a hang out space and sit on the quarter-pipe
- The basketball court isn't used
- Users noted that they used to play touch football on the basketball court but now use the tennis courts
- There are often arguments at the skatepark as it has high use in only a small area
- There are people in the local area that cause trouble, however these people don't generally hang around at the skatepark. Some people walk through the skatepark on the way to the local pub and smash bottles on the park etc.
- A lot of people use the youth space to congregate at night time and often drink at the site. Users noted that this doesn't occur as much as it used to.



- Girls attend the skatepark, but generally just watch and hang out.
- A lot of people tag and graffiti on the skatepark, but users saw it as not being to a very good standard
- The park is a big asset to the local community as it is all that they have in the area, they are isolated

#### ***Condition and maintenance***

A number of comments were made about the current condition and maintenance of the skatepark including:

- Users noted that the maintenance wasn't very good at the site
- There are no bins available so there is a lot of rubbish around the area. Especially with the shops across the road, rubbish from the food that is bought there gets left lying around the skatepark and surrounding spaces.
- There is generally always glass everywhere on the skatepark
- The dirt that is on the bike track is too slippery, which stops them from getting any speed.
- The dirt from the track also gets spread onto the skatepark
- Users noted that they often go across to the shops and get a small dustpan to get the dirt off of the park

#### ***Site improvements***

A number of comments and ideas about improving the skatepark were made, including:

- Make the soil on the dirt track harder and the track itself wider.
- If water was made available, users would handle the upkeep of the track to a riding standard
- The track was previously altered by users, but the Council then came to fix it and made the track worse.
- Additional bins are needed that are secured in the ground
- Additional seating and shelter (not trees) is needed
- A separate section for younger users is needed
- A half pipe like Rutherford would be ideal here

## 4. Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Demand analysis

#### Population projections

In 2011, the City of Maitland has a projected population of 73,340, an increase of 8,670 since 2006 (64,670). This number is expected to continue to grow, with some 96,660 people by 2026 and 110,270 by 2036. This equates to an increase of 36,930 people from 2011 to 2036.

Of the 2011 population, 28% are young people (5-24 years), which equates to some 20,300 people. This figure is expected to increase by 38.2% to 26,130 by 2036, however there is an expected 4% drop in the proportion of young people by 2036 (24%).

The following table shows the age breakdown of Maitland’s younger people from 2006 to 2036.

Table 2. Projected number of young people (5-24 years), City of Maitland (2006-2036)<sup>6</sup>

Age group	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
5-9 years	4,900	5,340	5,680	6,110	6,420	6,630	6,860
10-14 years	4,970	5,290	5,700	6,000	6,410	6,700	6,990
15-19 years	4,730	5,150	5,420	5,730	6,010	6,370	6,710
20-24 years	4,310	4,520	4,810	4,920	5,090	5,280	5,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,910</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>21,610</b>	<b>22,760</b>	<b>23,930</b>	<b>24,980</b>	<b>26,130</b>

#### Skate, BMX and basketball participation

##### National Participation Trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has identified that 57.3% of young people aged 5-17 years use outdoor facilities including parks, paths and walking trails for recreation purposes<sup>7</sup>.

Nationally, children (5-14 years) spend an average of six hours riding skateboards, rollerblading or riding scooters, and five hours riding bikes, each fortnight.

The average time that children spend bike riding decreased from six hours in 2000 to five hours in 2009, with the average time that boys spent (seven hours to five hours) decreasing more than girls (five hours to four hours).<sup>8</sup>

Boys are more likely to take part in riding a bike (boys 66% compared with girls 54%), skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter (boys 56% compared with girls 42%), and basketball (boys 8.5% compared with girls 6.3%)<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> NSW Statistical Local Area Population Projections, Department of Planning 2010

<sup>7</sup> Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009-10, ABS

<sup>8</sup> Children’s Participation in Sport and Leisure Time Activities, 2000 to 2009, ABS

<sup>9</sup> Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, 2009, ABS

As shown below, children's national participation in bike riding has fluctuated over the years, culminating in a total fall from 64% in 2000 to an all-time low of 60% in 2009<sup>10</sup>. Boys' participation in bike riding (71% to 66%) decreased more than girls' (56% to 54%) from 2000 to 2009<sup>11</sup>.

Participation in skateboarding and / or rollerblading has also seen a significant decline from 2000 (30.9%) to 2003 (22.8%), a slight increase to 2006 (23.6%), before experiencing a jump to 49.3% in 2009, which is a result of the inclusion of scooter riding to the skateboarding and /or rollerblading category in ABS data.

Participation in basketball has fluctuated consistently over the years, seeing a slight increase from 2000 to 2003 (7.6% to 7.7%), a decrease to 2006 (6.6%) and then an increase to 2009 (7.4%).

**Table 3. National children's (5-14 years) participation rate (%) of selected activities (2000-2009)**

Activity	2000	2003	2006	2009
Skateboarding or rollerblading	30.9	22.8	23.6	49.3
Bike riding	63.8	62.1	67.8	60.4
Basketball	7.6	7.7	6.6	7.4

Participation rates for both categories: riding a bike, and skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter, taper off as participant's age. Unfortunately, such figures for basketball for children under 14 are not available.

<sup>10</sup> Children's Participation in Sport and Leisure Time Activities, 2000 to 2009, ABS

<sup>11</sup> Children's Participation in Sport and Leisure Time Activities, 2000 to 2009, ABS

Interestingly, bike riding participation remains relatively stable (1.1% decrease) from age five through to 11, whereas the participation for skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter declines 7% from 5-8 years to 9-11 years.

A significant decline in participation is seen after the age of 11 for both skating and bike riding, as shown below.

**Table 4. National children's (5-14 years) participation rate (%) of selected activities by age cohort<sup>12</sup>**

Activity	5-8 years	9-11 years	12-14 years	Total
Skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter	60.1	53.1	30.2	48.9
Bike riding	62.3	61.2	44.0	56.4

As shown below, national participation rates for adults (15+ years) indicate a 0.2% and 2.4% increase in mountain bike and cycling participation respectively, from 2001 to 2010. However, roller sports, and BMX have seen a 0.5% and 0.1% decrease in the same period. Basketball participation rates have fluctuated over the years, but are currently at 3.5%, the same as 2010 figures.

**Table 5. National adult (15+ years) participation rate (%) of selected activities (2001-2010)<sup>13</sup>**

<sup>12</sup> Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2010

<sup>13</sup> Exercise, Recreation And Sport Survey, Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS), 2010

Activity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cycling	8.1	7.5	8.7	9.8	9.4	9.5	8.7	10.3	9.4	10.5
BMX	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Mountain Bike	1.3	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.6	1.5
Roller sports	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.4
Basketball	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.0	2.4	3.8	3.5

### Demand projections

#### Total young people (5-24 years) potential demand

Currently there is an estimated 7,165 Maitland young people who ride a bike. This number is estimated to increase to some 9,296 by 2036.

Additionally, there is an estimated 5,208 Maitland young people who skateboard / ride a scooter / rollerblade or participate in other roller sports. This number is estimated to increase to 6,786 by 2036.

There is also an estimated 294 Maitland young people who participate in non-organised / recreational basketball. This number is expected to increase to 378 by 2036.

Collectively, there is an estimated 12,667 Maitland young people who participate in youth space orientated physical activities. This is estimated to grow by 30% to some 16,460 young people.

**Table 6. Young people (5-24 years) participation projections for youth space activities, Maitland (2011-2036)<sup>14</sup>**

Activity	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Riding a bike <sup>15</sup>	7,165	7,655	8,119	8,580	8,928	9,296
Roller sports <sup>16</sup>	5,208	5,576	5,933	6,286	6,531	6,786
Basketball (non-organised)	294	312	330	347	362	378
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,667</b>	<b>13,543</b>	<b>14,382</b>	<b>15,213</b>	<b>15,821</b>	<b>16,460</b>

#### Children's (5-14 years) potential demand

ABS participation rates indicate that 56.4% of NSW children ride bikes, 48.9% ride a skateboard, rollerblades or scooter, and 3.3% play basketball.

Using a 0.43% ratio<sup>17</sup>, it can be said that the NSW participation rate for non-organised or recreational basketball is 1.4%.

<sup>14</sup> Calculated by applying participation rates from Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2010 and Exercise, Recreation And Sport Survey, Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS), 2010 against population projections from NSW Statistical Local Area Population Projections, Department of Planning 2008. Assumes that participation rates do not fluctuate in future years, and as such, projections should be used as potential figures only.

<sup>15</sup> Includes children's bike riding and young adults cycling, BMX and mountain bike figures.

<sup>16</sup> Includes children's skateboarding / rollerblading / riding a scooter and young adults rollersports figures.

<sup>17</sup> Calculated by dividing the non-organised participation rate (1.5%) by the total participation rate (3.5%) for those over 15 years (ERASS) to produce the equivalent proportion of non-organised participants.

In the current year 2011, Maitland is projected to have 5,995 children (5-14 years) participating in bike riding. It is projected that Maitland will experience a 30% increase in the number of children in the area by 2036, culminating in 7,811 children riding bikes.

Similarly, it is estimated that Maitland currently has 5,198 children riding skateboards, rollerblades or scooters. By 2036, it is projected that there will be 6,773 children riding skateboards, rollerblades or scooters.

There are an estimated 149 Maitland young people participating in basketball in 2011. By 2036, it is projected that there will be 194 playing non-organised / recreational basketball.

**Table 7. Children’s (5-14 years) youth space activities participation projections, Maitland (2011-2036)<sup>18</sup>**

Activity	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Bike riding	56.4% participation rate					
5-9 years	3,012	3,204	3,446	3,621	3,739	3,869
10-14 years	2,984	3,215	3,384	3,615	3,779	3,942
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,995</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>6,830</b>	<b>7,236</b>	<b>7,518</b>	<b>7,811</b>
Skateboarding / rollerblading / scooter	48.9% participation rate					
5-9 years	2,611	2,778	2,988	3,139	3,242	3,355
10-14 years	2,587	2,787	2,934	3,134	3,276	3,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>5,565</b>	<b>5,922</b>	<b>6,274</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>6,773</b>
Basketball (non-organised)	1.4% participation rate					
5-9 years	75	80	86	90	93	96
10-14 years	74	80	84	90	94	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>194</b>

<sup>18</sup> Calculated by applying participation rates from Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2010 against population projections from NSW Statistical Local Area Population Projections, Department of Planning 2008. Assumes that participation rates do not fluctuate in future years, and as such, projections should be used as potential figures only.

**Young adult (15-24 years) potential demand**

ERASS participation rates for those aged 15 and over state that 10.6% of the NSW population participate in cycling and 0.2% participate in roller sports.

At the state level, ERASS identifies the category of cycling as including cycling, BMX and mountain bike riding. Similarly, roller sports includes in-line hockey, rollerblading, skateboarding and all other roller sports.

A breakdown of cycling into the three sub-sets of cycling, BMX and mountain bike riding is available at a national level (Table 5), and it is these national participation rates that have been used for the following identification of the potential demand of adolescents for youth space activities.

It is estimated that Maitland currently has 1,325 adolescents (15-24 years) that participate in activities that are commonly found at youth spaces. This number is expected to increase by 27% to 1,682 participants by the year 2036.

The following table shows the estimated number of participants for each activity between 2011 and 2036.

**Table 8. Adolescents (15-24 years) participation projections for selected activities, Maitland (2011-2036)<sup>19</sup>**

	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Cycling	10.5% participation rate					
15-19 years	541	569	602	631	669	705
20-24 years	475	505	517	534	554	585
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,289</b>
BMX	0.1% participation rate					
15-19 years	5	5	6	6	6	7
20-24 years	5	5	5	5	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
Mountain Bike	1.5% participation rate					
15-19 years	77	81	86	90	96	101
20-24 years	68	72	74	76	79	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>184</b>
Roller sports	0.4% participation rate					
15-19 years	9	10	10	10	11	11
20-24 years	19	20	21	22	23	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
Basketball (non-organised)	1.5% participation rate					
15-19 years	77	81	86	90	96	101
20-24 years	68	72	74	76	79	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>184</b>

<sup>19</sup> Calculated by applying participation rates from Exercise, Recreation And Sport Survey, Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS), 2010 against population projections from NSW Statistical Local Area Population Projections, Department of Planning 2008. Assumes that participation rates do not fluctuate in future years, and as such, projections should be used as potential figures only.

## Demographic and Participation Data Sources

### Population data

The projected population figures used in the demand analysis for this project have been sourced from NSW Statistical Local Area Population Projections, Department of Planning, 2008.

The municipality key characteristics used in the demographic analysis for this project were adapted from Maitland City Council's Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2011.

### Sport participation data

The sport participation rates (both nationally and NSW specific) used in the demand analysis for this project have been sourced from the Exercise, Recreation And Sport Survey 2010, Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (SCORS); as well as the Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities 2010, Australian Bureau of Statistics.

### Exercise, Recreation And Sport Survey, SCORS 2010

This survey, collecting sport and physical activity participation, has been conducted throughout Australia each year since 2001. The data collected only relates to participation of people aged 15 years of age and older.

### Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, ABS

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has captured data on children's participation in leisure and cultural activities in 2000, 2003, 2006, and most recently in 2009. The data highlights participation undertaken outside of school hours at a national level for children aged 5 to 14 years.

## Appendix 2 – Demographic profile

### Demographic implications on demand

Age, income, ethnicity, and education will affect people’s participation in sport and physical activity. The ABS<sup>20</sup> has found that for those aged 5-14 years, the lowest odds of participating in sport or physical activity include the following characteristics:

- Couple family, neither parent employed (0.39)<sup>21</sup>
- Single parent family, parent unemployed (0.51)
- Did not use a computer or the internet at home (0.55)
- Child born overseas (0.58)
- Parent(s) born in non-English speaking country (0.60)
- Female (0.69)
- Single parent family, parent employed (0.84)

It was also found that families with the characteristic of a couple with child(ren), with both parents employed had an increased likelihood to participate in sport or physical activity (1.52).

### Family type and employment status

In 2006, the majority of families in Maitland were couples with children (47.1%). This reflects the sustained number of young people, and the likely strong demand for young people activities and spaces. However this market will be sensitive to the cost of participation.

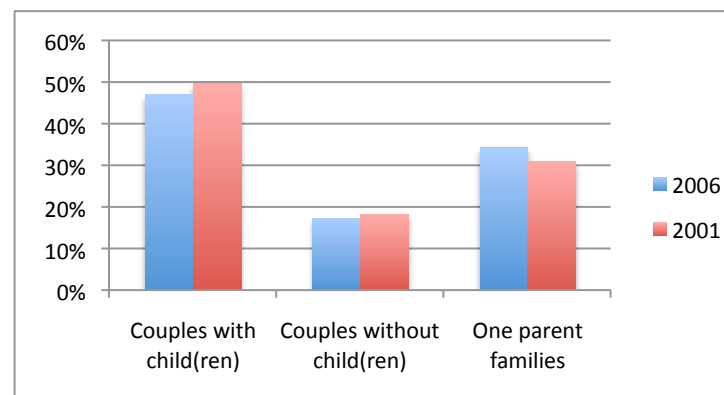
<sup>20</sup> The Young and the Restful – The Effects of Recreational Choices and Demographic Factors on Children’s Participation in Sport

<sup>21</sup> These figures are odds ratios indicating the likelihood of participation in sport or physical activity. A higher odds ratio indicates a greater propensity to participate in sport or physical activity.

Some 17% of households are one-parent families (17.4%). These families are less likely than other household types to participate in outdoor recreation activities and may need facilities and supportive environments more than others, however the proportion of couples with children, and one-parent families (18.2% in 2001) is declining slightly.

The following graph shows the percentage of households by family type in Maitland in 2001, compared to 2006.

**Figure 1. Family type (%): City of Maitland, 2001 compared to 2006<sup>22</sup>**



As shown in the graph above, the percentage of couples without children has increased since 2001, while couples with children and one-parent families have decreased.

Maitland is characterised by a high employment rate of 93.5%. Some 58.4% of the population are employed full-time, and 32.5% part-time.

<sup>22</sup> Maitland City Council Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010



Children in families with two parents (47.1% in Maitland) where both parents are working have a high odds ratio (1.52) of participation and are more likely to participate in sport and physical activities. The high employment rate seen in Maitland could indicate a likelihood that both parents of dependent children are employed, and hence likelihood for high participation in sport or physical activities such as those found at youth spaces.

Children of over 17% of Maitland's families may have a low propensity to participate in sport or physical activity, as in single parent families where the parent is employed, children are less likely to participate (0.84) and less likely again if the single parent is not working (0.51).

### Cultural diversity

The City of Maitland has a low percentage of the population born overseas (7%). An even smaller percentage of the population was born in non-English speaking countries (3.1%). These figures however have slightly increased since 2001 (0.1%).

Cultural background will influence preferences for specific activities, with children born overseas or being from families where the parents were born in a non-English speaking country being less likely to participate in sport or physical activity (odds ratios of 0.58 and 0.60 respectively).

However, the small proportion of people from non-English speaking backgrounds is unlikely to significantly impact on participation rates in sport and physical activities for Maitland's young people.

### Income

Income is a significant determinant of leisure behaviour and is likely to affect the use of youth spaces. Families with higher disposable incomes are more likely to spend money on travel and equipment to participate in sport and outdoor recreation activities such as skateboarding, and riding a BMX or scooter.

As access to youth spaces in a local neighbourhood is generally free of charge, local skateparks are potentially very important in providing accessible, low cost opportunities for young people's recreation. These may provide positive health outcomes to people who would otherwise be "at risk".

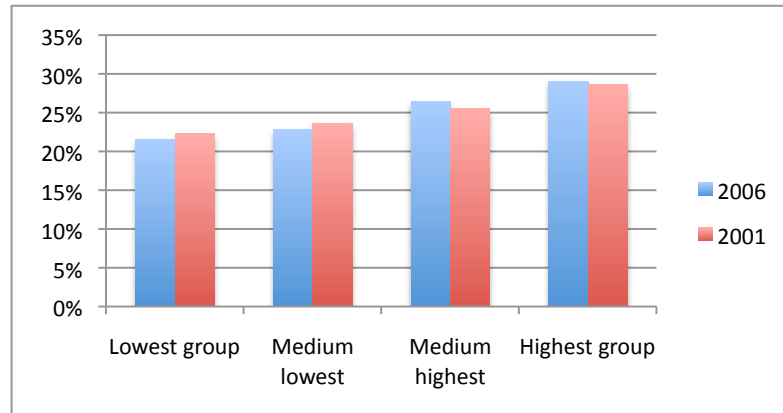
Household income levels in 2006 showed that overall:

- 21.6% of the households were in the lowest group (\$0 to \$24,551 per week),
- 22.8% were in the medium lowest group (\$24,252 to \$46,161), 26.5% were in the medium highest group (\$46,162 to \$79,886) and
- 29.1% were in the highest group (\$79,887 or above).

Changes from 2001 to 2006 show a slight decrease in the lowest and medium lowest groups, and consequently an increase in the medium highest and highest groups.

The following graph displays the percentage of income quartiles in Maitland in 2001 and 2006.

**Figure 2. Income quartiles (%): City of Maitland (2001 and 2006)** <sup>23</sup>



### Transport

A number of stakeholders identified transport to sport will be an issue for children in Maitland City Council’s Open Space Strategy, 2011. However there has been an increase in vehicle ownership per household from 2001 to 2006, with the proportion of households having 2 vehicles increasing by 2.8% and 3 vehicles or more by 2.9%.

In 2006 the greatest proportion (more than 50%) of households owned two vehicles or more.

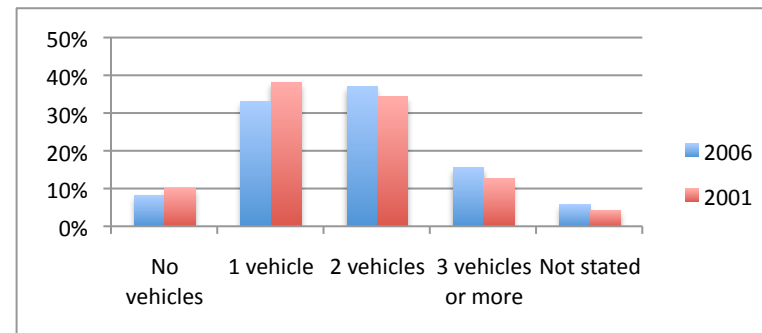
However with limited public transport, and 73.5% of households using a car to get to work, and more than 8% of families not owning a vehicle, many households will not have access to a car.

<sup>23</sup> Maitland City Council Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010

This means that transportation to and from youth spaces could be an issue for Maitland’s young people.

The following graph shows the percent of households and vehicle ownership for the City of Maitland in 2001 and 2006.

**Figure 3. Vehicle ownership (%): Number of vehicles per household, City of Maitland (2001 and 2006)** <sup>24</sup>



### Internet

It is widely accepted that broadband Internet access is an essential requirement to participate in the so-called ‘new economy’ and households with only dial-up or no Internet service are increasingly being left behind in the information age<sup>25</sup>.

At as the 2006 Census, 64.8% of households in Maitland had no internet connection or a dial up connection, and 29.3% had broadband connectivity.

<sup>24</sup> Maitland City Council Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010

<sup>25</sup> Maitland City Council Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010

These figures indicate the potential need for a varied approach to young people management and involvement, as many new techniques are based around online mediums and social media.

Children who do not use a computer or the internet at home are also less likely to participate in sport or physical activity (odds ratio of 0.55).

The low access to adequate internet connections in Maitland highlight the need to use more conventional hands-on techniques for engagement and promotion, such as the use of mobile phones, but also the lower propensity of Maitland’s younger people to participate in activities found at youth spaces.

### SEIFA Index of Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage has been constructed so that relatively disadvantaged areas (e.g. areas with many low income earners) have low index values.

The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is derived from attributes such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage rather than measure specific aspects of disadvantage (e.g., Indigenous and Separated/Divorced).

In 2006, Maitland has a SEIFA index of 992.0, ranking it the fourth least disadvantaged area in the Hunter region. This figure indicates a relatively affluent community.

Woodberry is the most disadvantaged area with an index of 869.8, while Bolwarra and District is the least disadvantaged area with an index of 1083.4.

Young people in the area’s that are most disadvantaged are more likely to require interventions and opportunities to participate in physical activity as a result of the combination of barriers associated with low socio-economic status. It is these areas that should be priorities for implementation of interventions such as youth spaces.

The following table shows the SEIFA index of each small area within Maitland.

**Table 9. SEIFA index of disadvantage by small area, Maitland City (2006)<sup>26</sup>**

Small area	SEIFA index
Woodberry	869.8
Telarah - Mount Dee	910.0
Rutherford	937.8
Central Maitland - Gillieston Heights – Cliftleigh	952.3
Metford & Woodlands Estate (Thornton)	955.8
Tenambit	972.0
East Maitland - Louth Park	987.2
Maitland City	992.0
Morpeth & District	1010.1
Part Thornton – Chisholm	1047.8
Aberglasslyn & District	1051.8
Rural West	1061.9
Ashtonfield & Avalon	1071.7
Bolwarra & District	1083.4

<sup>26</sup> Maitland City Council Community Profile, .id Consulting Pty Ltd, 2010

## Appendix 3 – Public Workshop Notes

Public workshops were held at six different locations across Maitland on the weekend of Saturday September 3 and Sunday September 4 2011:

### Saturday September 3

11:00 am – Harold Gregson Reserve Skate Park, Maitland

1:00 pm – Largs Skate Park

3:00 pm – Rutherford Youth Space

### Sunday September 4

11:00 am – Metford Recreation Reserve Skate Park

1:00 pm – Thornton Skate Park

3:00 pm – Fred Harvey Sports Centre Skate Park, Woodberry

Public workshops were advertised via posters that were displayed at local retail outlets, schools, and libraries and at six different skateparks across Maitland.

A press release was also distributed to reference groups identified by Council, and articles submitted to the Maitland Mercury and Lower Hunter Star Newspapers.

The notes from each workshop are shown in the following pages.



## Harold Gregson Reserve Skate Park, Maitland: Consultation Session Notes

DATE: 3/9/2011

TIME: 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES: 12 at beginning, 8 fully completed the session.

### ***What do you like about this space?***

- Good trees.
- It's a good park, but we need something we can progress to... Our skills can only go so far at this skatepark.
- You can take your skills to a certain level here, but looking for something better.
- Perfect location here!
- Used a lot.
- Bikes are the main scene here
- Old skatepark nearby is used if people get bored here.
- The old skatepark is too rough though.
- Small copings like the ones here are good.
- The way the coping is set is great here.
- Rutherford coping sticks out too far.

### ***What don't you like about this space?***

- No bins or toilets.
- Rubbish is just left.
- Need a metal bin.
- Don't like the transitions.
- Needs to be a bit more technical.
- This park doesn't work.
- Can only have one rider at a time here.
- Need a better box with a new lip.
- Gets boring, nothing to do good tricks on.
- No air.
- The box in the middle doesn't have a big enough transition.
- Anti graffiti paint slides out from under you when used.
- Graffiti is good, but not on actual ramp.
- Rails etc on half pipe are too close, too narrow.

***What can make this space better?***

- Make the space something that will bring more people to town.
- Bins.
- A metal bin.
- Better transitions.
- Make it for a higher skill level, or at least sections of it.
- Bigger elements.
- Bigger taller ramps.
- 10 foot vert wall.
- Bowl.
- A bowl would be amazing
- Dirt jumps would be amazing.
- Something new and amazing.
- Not little ones.
- Bellbirds.
- Public art wall – that would be sick.
- Music!
- Lights! – iPod dock locked in a cage.
- Lights cast a shadow in other sites.
- Need to make sure get full coverage.
- If could do something like the new one in Newcastle. Would be amazing
- Spine, and box, and mini.
- More set out, areas that you can ride as one, and then all at once.
- A street section, stairs with rails, ledges.
- Make it more streeety!
- Better park to hold competitions.
- A jam like Drift holds.
- Need to have a park where you can have multiple lines for multiple users to ride on at one time
- Distinct separate sections.
- Make a little section off to side for younger kids, to learn. 8 and under.
- Need to get professional designers to do any changes.
- Not a \$2 park like Thornton or Metford.
- If at back of ramps, cut off ramps and put dirt mound to use as a box.
- Better drainage needed!
- Would love a 6-foot mini – a quarter pipe, a spine, then another quarter pipe.
- Bikes need a lot bigger elements.
- Scooter you don't need a big ramp – only 3 foot would do.

- If you're going to do upgrades, don't put dirt behind half pipes.
- We don't really care, as long as it is upgraded, and is big.
- Need a bowl – kidney shape.
- One end deeper, then a spine, than a shallower end.
- More street stuff, like the small box.
- A BBQ!
- A foam pit would be great, but people would wreck it.
- Could have a cover for it, but need something for us to get access to being able to open the cover to use it.
- Would be issues of it getting wrecked.
- Distinct areas / levels.
- Something that is progressive, something for all abilities, so you can progress through skill levels.
- 6ft half pipe with a hip off the side. Or a bank off the back.
- A really big bowl, you'd put it here! It's far enough away from the houses that you won't annoy people, is close yet far enough away from things. Station is right there and we have about 4 schools around.
- Get rid of glass.
- Would need someone to clean glass etc. one a fortnight.
- Bindi spray, get flats from catheads/cat eyes grass = flats.
- Need a path to the skatepark.

- Use it all the time, if the park had lights we would use it even more.
- If you had lights on, even if they shut off at 10, it would be used more.
- Big roof over the park, or the sails,
- In afternoon when the sun is set, cant ride, it's in your eyes.
- A sail shade would be good.
- Get a cereal bowl shape and cut it on its side, that shape element would be good!
- So you can ride into it, and around it, and back out.
- Need a vert wall!
- Speakers in a cage so you can't wreck it, but with access to the iPod input.

***Are more spaces needed in Maitland? Where?***

- Law St where the parkland is could put a park there.
- Across the road from the Jail.
- This is a good spot, close to the station, shops, and centre of town.
- Like the idea that the park is secluded, no residents to get annoyed.
- People would DEFINITELY use an indoor skate centre.
- There is an indoor facility in Central Coast; we catch a train there to use it. But it's not that good, only use it for when it's raining etc.

- Rutherford is ok, but it's made for scooter.
- The less quality parks still get used, but the better quality ones attract more people.
- We would travel to a good facility.

***What kind of trends are happening with skateboarding / scooter / BMX? How is this space used?***

- A lot younger kids on scooters now.
- They get in the way, just ride around.
- For younger kids, build anything small, little roll ins, box jumps etc.

***What things could be done to help you manage this space or get you more involved?***

- A jam day, with a BBQ etc.
- Bike shop to support it, import company's to put up prizes.
- Little comps like best trick, highest bunny hop.
- We would be happy to help organise.
- Would need an upgraded park.
- At a jam you have heaps of riders all together and ride together at same time.
- Here you can only have one or two people riding at a time.
- A jam day that was organised and advertised, it would attract a lot of people!
- Wallsend jam got a heap of people.
- Rutherford you could hold a scooter jam, but not bike.
- Best way to get us involved in anything, go through the shops.
- Drift bikes is the best – for scooters and clothes and bikes.
- Not Hadley! – that's for like MTB and road cycle.
- We hang out at Drift – the managers are cool guys, they are riders too.

***What is the maintenance like at this space?***

- Nice clean ramp looks best, with big pieces along outsides.
- Council should keep tabs on it more.



- In morning with a bit of moisture on the graffiti it's really slippery.
- Do slip on metal bits at transition.
- The different ground textures doesn't affect us bike riders – would be nice if it wasn't like that but.
- If rocks, we break a branch off the trees to sweep it.
- Local shop could have a key for a locked shed that has brooms etc.
- Can hand in a wallet etc. to the local shop to get use of the key.

#### ***Older park v new park***

- The older one is used just as much as this space, but it is very old, and really rough.
- The old skatepark is really dodgy, only bikes can use it really.
- Scooters could but it's a challenge.
- The older park needs new elements.
- The new park is the better of the two - the other old one is terrible, but its still gets used.
- As soon as this one is a little bit wet, you can't ride it.
- Would be good to have both parks to a good standard.

#### ***Rutherford and other areas***

- Rutherford is good because it has a couple of different levels.

- Has two levels, street up top, then half pipe, then bit at bottom.
- Needs more bike areas.
- Is too compact.
- Is way more of a scooter scene.
- 4 riders from there come to this park.
- Woodberry is way too small.
- Thornton is too small.
- Metford is terrible, too small.
- Largs is terrible.

#### ***Other general info***

- Shop to get stuff. – food etc.
- Go to servo for drinks etc now.
- KFC or Macca's would be amazing.
- Skateboarders like street, they'll find stairs and things.
- Skateboarders would use a street section, or a huge bowl.
- Pete and Ben – work at Drift (Ben was here at the session).
- Have previously run a petition, and someone from Council said they would speak to us, but they never turned up.
- Pete at Drift was sponsored.
- Ben White is a scooter rider – Jackson Caldwell.
-



- No girls because it is a male dominated sport. – Stacey comes down and rides.
- Girl's maybe once a month.
- Get really young girls on scooters.

***What are other good spaces and skateparks?***

- Five dock, Monster (indoor), Adelaide has great ones, and Victoria has good ones too!
- Shepparton has a good one.
- Dubbo has a good skatepark! Look at that!
- Ring other successful parks to see what they have done.

***Where is your favourite place to hang out?***

- This is our favourite place to hang out, along with the bike shop – Drift bikes.

## Largs Skate Park: Consultation Session Notes

DATE: 3/9/2011

TIME: 1:00 PM

ATTENDEES: 10 – 8 Younger attendees riding scooters, 2 older attendees riding bikes

### ***What do you like about this space?***

- Don't get people here drinking etc. like other parks.
- Probably because of the neighbours close by.
- It's close to us.
- Friends are here.
- The surface here is good for grip, all the others have the anti-graffiti concrete and paint, which is slippery.

### ***What don't you like about this space?***

- It's tiny.
- When lots of people come here its overcrowded.
- Toilets aren't open! – It's been padlocked for years.
- We jump up on the roof etc. to hang out.
- Not enough jumps.
- Bubblers (water) are too far away.
- The fence around the edge - pointless.
- Like to drive our cars in and have music going.
- Nowhere to sit!

- Don't like the graffiti.
- Nowhere for shade except one tree.
- The entire park, the coping, graffiti.
- People come here and do stupid stuff like graffiti.
- There are a few random kids that don't even skate that come and graffiti and vandal.
- No shade.

### ***What can make this space better?***

- Do something with the tennis court.
- It's sitting there and is an eyesore.
- Put a seat somewhere; build more jumps or something in there.
- Need things to be bigger.
- Get rid of the tennis court and replace it with a bowl or foam pit – foam pit will never happen.
- Put a new updated skatepark where the tennis courts are.
- Make two sections – bike section and scooter section.
- Need shade!
- Synthetic running track and long jump (attendee in athletics gear)
- Public art walls – graffiti walls.
- The people that graffiti are idiots so if there is a wall to do it, they probably wont use it

- Concrete the end where the roll in is and have seats and things here.
- Lighting.
- We come here at night sometimes and have our car lights on.
- If the BBQ worked it would be good.
- Spine.
- Make things bigger.
- Get rid of the box to put a spine in – its not used much.
- The coping on it needs fixed too.
- The other set up is good. – If there was a dirt bit behind that it would be awesome.
- Should get a bowl.
- Where the tennis court is!
- Being realistic – concrete the tennis courts and put a few sub boxes and ledges and seating, for somewhere to sit with shade and something new.
- Maybe a bubbler there too.
- Need new stuff, sick of riding the same old.
- Plant a mandarin tree.
- I planted one the other day – watered it today.
- Would be good to have one!

***Where is your favourite place to hang out?***

- Here!

***Are more spaces needed in Maitland? Where?***

- 2 older attendees that drive – we go to central coast every weekend.
- If there were a really good one in Maitland we would go there.
- They need a park in East Maitland – there’s a shopping centre and new estates etc. but nowhere to ride.
- Rutherford is good because its near shops and things.
- Green Hills / East Maitland would be good because it’s near the shops.

***What kind of trends are happening with skateboarding / scooter / BMX? How is this space used?***

- The scene is getting bigger.
- BMX especially around Newcastle etc. is getting bigger!
- Skateboard is having a massive drop in people but.
- Scooters are on the incline.
- No girls come here.
- Little girls that are annoying come down and ride rip sticks etc.

***How is the maintenance at this space?***

- Bins turn up every now and then, sit here for a while then they are taken way.
- Do you need permanent bins? No - They are not used.



- We built the pile of dirt at the back, then Council knocked it down, then Council randomly put more dirt again with heaps of stones etc.
- Council just dumped a heap of dirt and we shaped it and things.
- If they want to put more dirt behind the other half pipe it would be good.
- Maintenance is good. Council is good.
- But when they mow, they just leave it on the park.

#### ***Older park v new park***

- Update this park!

#### ***Other general info***

- Both bikes and scooters use it.
- There is a shop nearby – Eddy’s.
- When parents bring little kids, they usually lap the place and it cuts everyone else from using it.
- On Saturday and Sunday afternoons, or when they have soccer or cricket on at the sportsgrounds, they have heaps of little kids.
- Kids should be down at the playground.
- The coping at Rutherford sticks out heaps. This is good.
- There’s nowhere around for dirt biking.
- It’s very much if you ride dirt you don’t ride parks.
- Most of the people that go to Drift are the Maitland riders – nothing happens out this way.

#### ***What are other good spaces and skateparks?***

- Wadalba, Foster, Central Coast are good.
- Kurri is crap.



## Rutherford Youth Space: Consultation Session Notes

DATE: 3/9/2011

TIME: 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES: 15 scooter riders, 8 skateboarders

### ***What do you like about this space?***

- It's smooth.
- Come here to chill.
- Lots of shops close by
- It's got a bubbler – doesn't work though.
- Not many potheads come up here anymore – the 'lads'
- Clean of debris.
- Drainage is ok.
- Dry's up pretty well.
- Do feel pretty safe skating here.
- There is enough here to cater for all skill levels

### ***What don't you like about this space?***

- Don't like the graffiti.
- Doesn't get cleaned off.
- Lots of rubbish because not many bins and people leave rubbish.
- People burn the bins.

- People burnt the "unburnable" bins.
- Need more shade! One of the roll-ins is rough - Near where the drain is.  
The different edge on that bit there though is good (bevelled edge on curb at section near stairs) – provides something different.  
OBSERVATION: this particular area is in high use, with riders using other end to begin run, some use the rail on way through and then use this quarter-pipe as the main focus of their run.

### ***What can make this space better?***

- Need more bins.
- Coca cola bubbler!
- Could do with a couple more clean seats.
- Lots of unused space - Use it to make more skatepark.
- Shade sail, or shed over the top, that's too high for dero's to climb on.
- We need toilets here rather than going to the shops.  
Council could lock them at certain times to stop them from getting wrecked.
- Put a BBQ area here.
- More ramps. Getting a bit boring.
- Need a spine.
- A W-spine.
- Need a bowl.

- Could make the pyramid in the middle a box – Council had said that they were going to do it.
- Need a mega-ramp.
- A foam pit!
- W-Spine! Priority number one is a W spine!
- Need a phone-box.
- Should upgrade what's here more than make new spaces.
- Put the W spine where the grass patch is.
- Get rid of the fence in the middle of the park where the seating is.
- Put a concrete bike track in between the two skateparks.
- Concrete the dirt area on the side of the skatepark near the playground
- Get rid of the seats that are at the skatepark near the playground and make it all concrete so we have room to use the existing box that is there.
- When concreting the outer edge of the skatepark, maybe put a gap in the concrete at the halfway point of the stair element, which would add an extra element and something to do tricks over.
- Put a ledge on the outside edge of the additional concrete along the same section where the stair element is too.
- Keep the big concrete area at the bottom of the stairs as is, we use the area for landing.

- All we need to skate is a large concrete area, no fancy pipes and things.
- We need Council to finish this area before adding new things to it.
- Could put a basketball ring at end of the concrete landing area, closest to playground. Put it on top of the shelter that is already there, we would use it for mucking around with a ball, even on our skateboard too.

***Where is your favourite place to hang out?***

- This is our favourite place to hang out.

***Are more spaces needed in Maitland? Where?***

- If there was a new really good one it should be here.
- We would travel to a good facility.
- Rutherford is better than in Maitland or East Maitland. – Not many pubs around.

***What kind of trends are happening with skateboarding / scooter / BMX? How is this space used?***

- Area is used mostly by scooters.
- We use other places – SLAM factory.
- The split design is OK.
- The section near the playground is more for skateboarders.
- Only two bike riders at the most come here.
- The scene is increasing, getting more popular.
- Not many girls come.

- 4 or 5 girls in Rutherford that ride.
- Get a lot of little kids with their parents - They use the top section here (closest to KFC).

***What things could be done to help you manage this space or get you more involved?***

- New scooters.
- More bins.
- A closet – to hold mattresses.
- We bring them up but it gets taken away.
- Mattresses look really bad when lying around.
- Could store them out of sight, locked up at night.
- Put brooms and things in there to keep up maintenance.
- Scraper, to help scrape off paint.
- More events!
- 2 events are held here.
- Last time we aimed for about 300 competitors in the comp – I am in the reference group and helped Council organise it.

***What is the maintenance like at this space?***

- Maintenance is OK here, but we need more bins.

***What other activities do you want to participate in but can't?***

- Putt-putt golf.
- Laser-tag, paintball.
- No to art etc. – designated graffiti wall would be good – like Newcastle skatepark.

***What are other good spaces and skateparks?***

- Wallsend.
- Is really good, has the W-spine, a big ramp, big blocks – has everything!
- SLAM – that's good.

***Other general information***

- Fuel Surf Skate Ride – the shop isn't very good.
- No skate shops are around here – 50-50 skate shop in Newcastle is OK, but the shops are getting worse – they are dying.
- Drift Bikes is for bikes only – don't cater for skateboarding.



## **Metford Recreation Reserve Skate Park: Consultation Session Notes**

DATE: 4/9/2011

TIME: 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES: 12. One parent also attended.

### ***What do you like about this space?***

- There's a soccer game here sometimes – I like that.
- Scooters and bikes mainly – sometimes skateboarders.
- If those jumps with the dirt behind weren't there this place would be boring.

### ***What don't you like about this space?***

- People tagging – graffiti.
- People light fires around here, around the park - smash bottles and things.
- People leave rubbish everywhere - sometimes it gets stuck in your wheels etc.
- Basketball court isn't used - usually a lot of glass on there – people smashing bottles. Balls likely to get popped, nets aren't very good.
- If you see at the bottom of the box, the cement has started peeling – kids graze themselves on it.
- It stays pretty wet - takes a day or two to dry out.

### ***What can make this space better?***

- Need somewhere to ride a dirt bike around here.
- A dirt bike track in the area is needed.
- A lot of people around here ride dirt bikes.
- Around Kurri etc. a lot of people have motorbikes, but nowhere to ride.
- Maybe a BMX track and dirt bike track in same area.
- This park could be for the younger kids on skateparks and scooter etc.
- Skate park could be bigger.
- Need a pergola for shade.
- A spine.
- Get rid of the basketball court, put a bowl in.
- Some kind of music would be good.
- Sat night music.
- Fix it up.
- Keep it decent.
- Need more maintenance.
- Brand new painting all over the park.
- Maybe a graffiti wall. - Like Newcastle, which repaints and upgrades every couple of years – stop people from graffiti on it.
- Get rid of the basketball court – expand the skatepark.

- Need a drainage system!
- Trees behind the jumps cut out so we can ride there.
- Definitely need more places for motorbikes.
- Could have a bubbler here at the park.
- We need bins!
- Metal bins with the bins inside so they can't be taken out, stop people from wrecking them.
- Seating – so we don't have to sit on the box like we are now.
- Shelter and seating are the main things.
- Council could just fix up the little transitions and make them smooth again instead of having big bumps here.
- A big spine in the middle. – Like at Kurri.
- Cement the back of the quarter.
- A railing is needed where the roll-in is, but not where the jump runs are.
- If you made this park bigger: bigger quarters.
- Behind where the basketball court is now, put a quarter on one side, and at the opposite end, make it a big quarter-pipe.
- Fix up all the little gaps in the surface etc.
- A foam pit would be cool!
- Lights! (parent)

- Kids: yeah spotlights – big lights that come from over the top.
- A seat, so they don't sit on the box thingy. (Parent)
- Pergola for shade.

***Where is your favourite place to hang out?***

- We come here.

***Are more spaces needed In Maitland? Where?***

- Need another skatepark in East Maitland, and Ashtonfield.
- A closer BMX track is needed so we don't have to go to Tenambit.
- We ride there sometimes.
- We travel to other skateparks and things too.
- If there were a really good one, we would travel there.
- If you fix the ones where Maitland are, we would use them.
- Lights would be the big thing!

***What kind of trends are happening with skateboarding / scooter / BMX? How is this space used?***

- Scooters- - they are the biggest craze I've ever seen.
- Lots of little kids come down here – even girls.
- It's just the kid's hangout place.
- If they weren't here at the park, they wouldn't have anything to do – they would probably get in trouble (parent).

- A lot of the kids here play footy (soccer), but that's all over now. (parent)
- The kids all know each other here – I even come down here to get to know my sons friends (parent).
- I was driving to pick up my car yesterday at 8:30, and there were kids already here riding! (parent).
- Some days there are like 40 kids down here.
- Even the older 18-year-old kids get down here and skate (skateboarders).
- The kids go from scooters, to bikes, and then back to scooters (parent).
- Probably about 20-30 people here usually.
- Weekdays use it the most.
- Everyday there is people here.
- Everybody knows each other here.
- OBSERVATION: One child asked if they could borrow another's bike, and they immediately swapped one's bike for the other's scooter – good sense of camaraderie.

***What things could be done to help you manage this space or get you more involved?***

- Competitions every Friday night (parent)/
- \$2 entry fee, and the money goes to making the park better.
- There are always a lot of kids here, the comp would go well.

- Parent – yeah I would help – I know a couple other people would.
- Council to put posters up etc.
- Come down – there are always kids here!
- From 3 to 5:30pm there are always people here.
- Saturdays have the most people.
- There's not much else to do in Metford so they all come here.
- Use the schools to hand out flyers etc. promoting competitions and things (parent).

***How is the maintenance at this space?***

- Not very good.
- No bins, so there is rubbish all around and on the park.

***Are there any other activities you want to do but can't?***

- That Rutherford space – they have a comp there – if you make them more often you could run comps between the two skateparks – it gives them another outlet and team atmosphere (parent)
- Blue light discos?
- Nah don't go to them.
- The ones that go there are Year 8 and 9 and things, but different people.

**Other general info**

- There is a bubbler over there – or we go to the servo to buy drinks.
  - The old guy across the road lends us his broom to clean up the park – get rid of glass etc.
  - The old guy comes and picks up rubbish and things too.
  - Need more scooter and bike shops.
  - We feel safe – except when an alcho or druggo is around, trying to sell things to us.
  - Someone’s bike was stolen and someone was trying to sell it to us here.
  - We come here to ride, have fun, get away from home, and make friends with new people here.
  - Girls do come here, but usually they sit on the grandstand over on the side. Don’t really ride etc.
  - Us parents, we come down and watch the kids, some of them are unbelievable! We couldn’t do the things they are doing when we were kids. There are kids down here that do flips and things. – They need something bigger so they can go on and become like X fighter and things (parent).
  - There are toilets at the facility there, but always locked.
  - No toilets at the train station either.
  - Nowhere to go for the toilet.
  - OBSERVATIONS: There were two children at this space that were at the Maitland skatepark yesterday.
- One attendee said that about 10 of their friends were at Maitland today instead of here.

## **Thornton Skate Park: Consultation Session Notes**

DATE: 4/9/2011

TIME: 1:00 PM

ATTENDEES: 3

### ***What do you like about this space?***

- Nothing.
- It's close to shops.

### ***What don't you like about this space?***

- Nobody uses basketball court.
- There's always glass.
- If there wasn't glass I might use it.
- Glass on basketball court
- People melt the bins.
- Quarters not big enough.
- Cracks in between the quarter are too big, in the middle where the separation is. – People have fallen and got stitches.
- The box isn't big enough.
- Nobody treats it good.
- A lot of older kids who just smoke and stuff sit in the playground area and throw stuff on the skatepark – melt the bins n things.

- There's no spine.
- The quarter jump is bad – always glass and things in the dirt there. There are rocks in it.
- Gets wet easy.
- There was railing – but it kept getting cut down so now the Council have put dirt there.
- We like it – allows you to do more tricks.
- Should make it like a flat top, longer area to jump, not like a spine.
- Always junk around like the trolley.
- Doesn't really get cleaned – same stuff is here a lot.
- Council does clean sometimes.
- Would like it if it were maintained more often.
- If there's glass, just kick it off; sometimes the op shop will let us borrow their broom to sweep.

### ***What can make this space better?***

- We want a hip and spine.
- We need a bubbler.
- Better swing set.
- Need a roof and better drainage so we can ride elsewhere when it's raining.
- Stays pretty wet.
- Need a metal quarter – there more fun.

- We would use a flying fox at the playground.
- If there was somewhere for our own broom it would be good – but somebody would steal it.
- The path in and out needs to be concreted.
- We get punctures riding through the dirt tracks.
- Park needs to be longer like Woodberry.
- Need more trees, like fruit trees!
- A different area for little kids.
- Little kids come with their parents and get in our way.
- Their parents tell them not to get in our way but they do.
- There have been a few crashes because of it.
- A hip – which is the corner part, goes from one side and jump diagonally over the other side.
- Hump to spine combo would be cool!
- Pyramid box.
- Box = quarter to roll in.
- A roof!
- Drainage!
- Lights would be good.
- Like Wallsend, but bigger.
- Half pipe – usually 5 or 6 foot
- More trees for shade – but then there would be more leaves!

- Used to be table where the shelter is.
- Need a bike rack! Instead of scratching them by putting them on the ground!
- No other parks have bike racks, we can be the first!
- Need bins!
- Metal bins to stop people from melting them.
- It would be cool if we had a stereo! – Or a jukebox. – But people would wreck it.
- Some people bring their iPod dock down and listen to music.
- Could have a power box – or a speaker box where you can plug your iPhone or iPod into that you can't get access to, so people can't wreck it. – People will steal your phone but.

***Where is your favourite place to hang out?***

- Here. Nowhere else really to go.
- Favourite reason to come here is to get away from home, see mates – get away from mums cooking, she's terrible!

***Are more spaces needed in Maitland? Where?***

- Woodberry is terrible.
- There are too many older kids that smoke and things there.
- We go to Maitland, Mayfield, Newcastle, Walls End, Slam, Monster - we train it there.
- If a new one, a big warehouse would be cool in Tenambit and near St. Peters school – near where the Maitland one is.

- Only used Woodberry twice - It's OK, but too many bad kids are there.

***What kind of trends are happening with skateboarding / scooter / BMX? How is this space used?***

- 3 skaters that come here, some scooters, usually bikes.
- Kids come here before school. Get here at like 7:30 – like 20 kids.
- Other kids our ages that aren't into riding, they just play Xbox and stay home.
- If we weren't here we would do other things maybe like jump on the tramp – play sport on the weekends.
- There used to be a lot of gangs like later on 6 pm in the summer – but not really anymore.
- Feel pretty safe here.
- People just sit on the playground.
- Nobody uses graffiti wall.
- Nobody does graffiti down here.
- The kids that sit up on the playground sometimes use the park, and sit around on the park too.
- If there were other seating they probably wouldn't use the park.

***What things could be done to help you manage this space or get you more involved?***

- Every second Thursday they had PCYC come down and have sausage sizzles

- We used to come down – lots of people used to come.
- If you had a comp here it would attract a lot of people.
- School doesn't do anything over here.
- School uses the tennis courts for sport.
- Graffiti wall is never used.
- People that do graffiti got in trouble so don't do graffiti on the wall anymore.
- The graffiti artists are the older kids like 15/16 years old.
- Hardly any of them do it anymore because they got caught.

***How is the maintenance at this space?***

- Terrible.
- Look, there's a shopping trolley there on the park, and a melted bin!
- It's been there a while.

***Other general info***

- We came here because we saw the poster on the skatepark.
- Nobody ever uses the BBQ. The buttons got taken off because people were just leaving it on.
- When soccer's on, they have lots of little kids here. They get in the way.

## **Fred Harvey Sports Centre Skate Park, Woodberry Consultation Session Notes**

DATE: 4/9/2011

TIME: 3:00 PM

ATTENDEES: 15 younger attendees on scooter's and bikes, 1 older skateboarder. 2 older intoxicated people were also at this space, but did not take part in the consultation session.

### ***What do you like about this space?***

- Nothing.
- Close to shops.
- Need a crossing to the shops but.

### ***What don't you like about this space?***

- Everything!
- The people are crap around here.
- Glass is everywhere.
- The dirt over there is crap – too slippery!
- The dirt comes onto the park.
- We go over to the shops and get a little dustpan and use that to get it off.
- Nobody usually uses the dirt track. The soil is too loose. It should be hard.
- Can't get speed on the bike track – because of loose rubble type dirt.

### ***What can make this space better?***

- The dirt track needs to be harder dirt, and wider!
- If we had water, we could keep it up ourselves.
- Lights would be good one at each end. Even ones that turn off at 8:30 PM or something.
- Don't really need any more dirt or anything to help fix the dirt track.
- Just need better soil and water to keep it good.
- We had it good before, and then the Council came and fixed it but made it worse.
- We need a whole new skatepark.
- We need bins!
- That are stuck in the ground.
- We need a tap – a bubbler.
- We need a shop. The one across the road is too hard!
- We need shade!
- Shelter, not trees!
- We need more seats.
- Could do with a park for little kids.
- Theme park would be cool!
- Need a waterslide.
- We need a skate bowl here!
- Older skateboarder – bins and seats would be good!



- There is a lot of crap around the site, so bins would be good!
- Rutherford has the half pipe – would be good to have one here.
- A spine!
- Girl – seats closer to the park.
- A pool!
- Indoor centre – with a foam pit!
- An area for little kids.

***Where is your favourite place to hang out?***

- This is the only place for them to go (older skateboarder).
- Yes this our favourite place to hang out.
- Here is like my second home.
- This is the only place to go.
- Hang out with mates, and shops are just there too.

***Are more spaces needed in Maitland? Where?***

- If a spine were here, people would come here more,
- Berro (Beresfield) – put a new park there.
- Older guy – I never use to skate, gave it up for a while, but now I'm getting back into it because of the new pipe that they have put in.

***What kind of trends are happening with skateboarding / scooter / BMX? How is this space used?***

- A lot of people come here to sit and hang out and sit on the quarter pipe – get in the way.
- Basketball court isn't used – no body plays basketball.
- We used to play touch here, but now there is a hole in the tennis fence so we play there.
- About 20 people come here.
- There are always arguments – a lot of people come here but there's no room.
- People don't really cause trouble here – but there are people that cause trouble around the area.
- Mainly scooters and bikes.
- Only one skateboarder really – me (older guy)
- If there were bins and things, we would use them!
- Drunk people walk through here, and smash bottles.
- At nighttime, a lot of people drink around here – but not as much as they used to.
- Girls come down here and watch, hang out – don't ride.
- We like to play footy.
- Everyone tags here, but they're crap!



***What things could be done to help you manage this space or get you more involved?***

- Family Centre – used to organise things like spray-painting etc.
- On Mondays there is “drop zone” at the community hall down the road – Samaritans run it.
- If they ran things here we might get involved more.

***What is the maintenance like at this space?***

- Not very good.
- No bins or anything, so there is lots of rubbish. Especially with the shops across the road, rubbish from the food we buy there just gets left around.

## Appendix 4 – Online Survey Full Report

An online survey was produced and advertised via posters that were displayed at local retail outlets, schools, and libraries and at the six different skateparks across Maitland.

A press release was also distributed to reference groups identified by Council, and articles submitted to the Maitland Mercury and Lower Hunter Star Newspapers.

The following pages identify the key findings from the online survey, and additional full responses to selected questions.

It must be noted that not all respondents answered each question.

### Who responded to the survey?

- A total of 46 people responded to the online survey.
- Of these, 59% (27) were male, 7% were female, and 33% did not answer.
- The majority of respondents were 10-14 years old (50% or 23 respondents).
- The most respondents were from Rutherford (24% or 11 respondents), closely followed by Aberglassyn (28% or 9 respondents).

### Key findings

Key findings from the online survey include:

- 91% (42) of respondents indicated that they currently use at least one of the identified youth spaces in Maitland
- The youth spaces with the highest reported usage rate were the two skateparks in Maitland (Maitland Sportsground Precinct and Harold Gregson Reserve) with 84% (31), followed by the Rutherford skatepark (Youth Space) with 68% (25), the Maitland Moor with 32% (12) and the Largs skatepark with 27% (10).
- The main activity undertaken at youth spaces is riding a scooter (43%), followed by hanging out (21%), riding a BMX bike (18%) and skateboarding (10%).
- 83% of respondents travel more than 1 km to get to youth spaces that they use, followed by 500 m – 1 km (8%), less than 300 m (6%) and 300 – 400 m (3%).
- Overall, respondents rated the condition of youth spaces in Maitland to be good (59%), followed by very good (23%), poor (8%), excellent (7%) and very poor (3%).
- 65% of respondents thought that the youth spaces were well maintained, as opposed to 20% that thought it was not very well maintained, and 15% that thought it was very well maintained.
- The need for bins and removal of graffiti at the different sites was commonly identified by respondents throughout the survey



- When asked what type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland, the majority of respondents identified that skateparks and/or sports fields are important spaces for young people
- When asked what activities they would like to do outdoors in their neighbourhood but currently do not, a number of respondents identified they wanted to participate in football
- The majority of respondents identified that they would like more facilities and/or development of existing facilities for skateboarding / scooter riding / and BMX riding
- Respondents identified a range of areas that need additional areas to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out including:
  - Rutherford
  - Maitland
  - Lochinvar
  - Aberglassyn
  - Bolwarra Heights
  - Cliffeigh
  - Greenhill Gardens
  - Thornton
  - East Maitland
- Development of, and/or additions to, Rutherford Youth Space was an recurring response throughout the survey

The following pages outline the responses from the online survey.

## Survey responses

### Question 1. Do you use youth spaces in Maitland?

Figure 1. Number and percentage of respondents by indication of use

Response	Chart	% of respondents	No. of respondents
Yes		91%	42
No		9%	4
		<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>46</b>

### Question 2. What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?

Figure 2. Number and percentage of respondents by important types of spaces for young people

Response	% of respondents	No. of respondents
Skate parks and other areas for skateboarding, BMX and scooter riding	65%	28
Sports fields / courts	23%	10
Pools	5%	2
Shops	2%	1
X-Box facilities	2%	1
Other	2%	1
<b>Total responses</b>		<b>43</b>

**Question 3. What activities would you like to do outdoors in your neighbourhood but currently do not?**

**Figure 3. Number and percentage of respondents by outdoor activity**

Response	% of respondents	No. of respondents
Sport (football, basketball)	39%	11
Skate / BMX / scooter	32%	9
Girls skatepark	11%	3
Mural / public art wall	3%	1
Walk	3%	1
Motorbike riding	3%	1
Theme park	3%	1
Make cubby houses	3%	1
<b>Total responses</b>		<b>28</b>

**Question 4. What types of facilities would you like to have in your neighbourhood? Where? Do you have a suggested location? What features should it have?**

**Figure 4. Respondents response by type, location and features recommended**

Facility	Location	Features
Mural / public art wall	Rutherford	Under the long bridge
Skate park	Maitland	-
Scooter park	-	Lots of bins
Skate park	Lochinvar	Scooter focus – ask scooter riders not just skaters
Skate parks	Rutherford	Foam pit and big half pipe
Skate park	Rutherford	Extend what’s there and put in more bins
Skate parks	-	More open space for skateparks and less houses

Facility	Location	Features
Skate park	Rutherford	A learning area
Skate park	Maitland	Spines
Scooter park	-	Spine and box feature
Skate park	-	-
BMX track	Scott St Reserve, Rutherford	-
Football field	Scott St Reserve, Rutherford	-
Skate park	Rutherford	Box and spine
Skate park	Aberglassyn	Running rails, quarter pipe
Scooter / bike park	Bolwarra Heights	Bowl, half-pipe, foam pit and a launch ramp
Scooter / bike park	Aberglassyn	Foam pit, big ramp, bowls, boxes (big)
Football field	Aberglassyn	-
Scooter park	Somerset Park, Thornton (where the swamp is)	Bowls, quarter-pipes
Football	Somerset Park, Thornton (where the swamp is)	-
-	-	Jumping pillows in between skateparks
Trampoline room		Trampolines around the whole room.
Girls skatepark	Knock down Aldi	Mirrors, change rooms, moon bounce
Skate park	Rutherford Youth Space	Toilets, footpaths and more shade
Skate park	Aberglassyn	Street spots, spines and boxes
Playgrounds	Cliffleigh	Spinning equipment ropes, spider web
Motorbike track	In the bush	Natural features
Skate park	Green Hill Gardens	-

Facility	Location	Features
Skate park	Fix Thornton	6 foot quarter pipes, 7 foot roll-ins and a 5 foot spine
Skate park	East Maitland, near the swimming pool.	There are two big high schools nearby, but nowhere for them to ride bikes or scooters etc. except the streets.



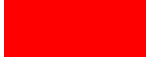











**Question 5. Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?**

Figure 5. Number and percentage of respondents by area

Response	% of respondents	No. of respondents
No / happy with what is here	29%	6
Maitland	19%	4
Rutherford	14%	3
Greenhill's	5%	1
Lochinvar	5%	1
Bolwarra Heights	5%	1
Aberglassyn	5%	1
Thornton	5%	1
East Maitland	5%	1
Other	9%	2
<b>Total responses</b>		<b>21</b>

**Question 6. Which of the following facilities do you use?**

Figure 6. Number and percentage of respondents by facility use

Response	Chart	% of respondents	No. of respondents
Skate park - (Central Maitland - Maitland Sportsground Precinct)		46%	17
Skate park - (Largs - Largs Park)		27%	10
Skate park - (Maitland - Harold Gregson Reserve)		38%	14
Half basketball court - (Metford - Metford Recreation Reserve)		11%	4
Skate park - (Metford - Metford Recreation Reserve)		22%	8
Skate park - (Rutherford)		68%	25
BMX track - (Tenambit - Beryl Humble Sporting Complex)		27%	10
Skate park - (Thornton - Thornton Park)		16%	6
Half basketball court - (Thornton - Thornton Park)		5%	2
Half basketball court - (Woodberry - Fred Harvey Sports Centre)		11%	4
Skate park - (Woodberry - Fred Harvey Sports Centre)		11%	4
Maitland River Walk		24%	9
Maitland Moor		32%	12
Other, please specify:		8%	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maitland Netball Courts</li> <li>▪ Coronation Oval</li> </ul>			2 1
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>37</b>

**Question 7. a) For each facility used, what activity do you do most?**

**Figure 7. Number and percentage of respondents by facility and use**

Facility	Skate	BMX	Scooter	Hang out with friends	Play basketball	Play other game	Other	Total
Skate park - Maitland Sportsground	3 23%	3 23%	6 46%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 8%	<b>13</b>
Skate park - Largs Park	2 22%	1 11%	4 44%	1 11%	0 0%	0 0%	1 11%	<b>9</b>
Skate park - Harold Gregson Reserve	0 0%	2 29%	4 57%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 14%	<b>7</b>
Half basketball court - Metford Recreation Reserve	1 25%	1 25%	0 0%	1 25%	0 0%	1 25%	0 0%	<b>4</b>
Skate park - Metford Recreation Reserve	0 0%	0 0%	2 67%	1 33%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>3</b>
Skate park / Youth Space - Rutherford	2 9%	1 14%	17 74%	3 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>23</b>
BMX Track - Beryl Humble Sporting Complex, Tenambit	0 0%	6 75%	0 0%	2 25%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>8</b>
Skate park - Thornton Park	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>2</b>
Half basketball	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>

Facility	Skate	BMX	Scooter	Hang out with friends	Play basketball	Play other game	Other	Total
court - Thornton Park	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Half basketball court - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>1</b>
Skate park - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 0%	0 0%	0 %	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>1</b>
Maitland Moor	1 10%	0 0%	4 40%	5 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>10</b>
Maitland River Walk	1 12%	2 25%	0 0%	4 50%	0 0%	0 0%	1 12%	<b>8</b>
Maitland Netball Courts	0 0%	0 0%	1 20%	2 40%	0 0%	1 20%	1 20%	<b>5</b>
Coronation Oval	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>0</b>
Maitland netball courts	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	<b>1</b>

**Question 7. b) For each facility used, how far do you travel to get there?**

**Figure 8. Number and percentage of respondents by facility and distance travelled**

Facility	Less than 300m	300m-400m	500m-1km	More than 1km	Total
Skate park - Maitland Sportsground	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	10
Skate park - Largs Park	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (12%)	7 (88%)	8
Skate park - Harold Gregson Reserve	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)	5 (83%)	6
Half basketball court - Metford Recreation Reserve	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4
Skate park - Metford Recreation Reserve	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (100%)	3
Skate park / Youth Space - Rutherford	2 (9%)	2 (9%)	2 (9%)	17 (74%)	23
BMX Track - Beryl Humble Sporting Complex, Tenambit	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	8 (100%)	8
Skate park - Thornton Park	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2
Half basketball court - Thornton Park	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
Half basketball court - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1
Skate park - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	1
Maitland Moor	1 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (10%)	8 (80%)	10
Maitland River Walk	1 (14%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (86%)	7

Other, please specify:	Less than 300m	300m - 400m	500m - 1km	More than 1km	Total
Maitland Netball Courts	1 (25%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (75%)	4
Coronation Oval	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0
Maitland netball courts	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0

**Question 7. c) For each facility used, how do you rate its condition**

**Figure 9. Number and percentage of respondents by facility and condition**

Facility	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very good	Excellent	Total
Skate park - Maitland Sportsground	0 (0%)	2 (20%)	5 (50%)	3 (30%)	0 (0%)	10
Skate park - Largs Park	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (88%)	1 (12%)	0 (0%)	8
Skate park - Harold Gregson Reserve	1 (17%)	1 (17%)	3 (50%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	6
Half basketball court - Metford Rec Reserve	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	0 (0%)	4
Skate park - Metford Rec Reserve	1 (33%)	0 (0%)	2 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3
Skate park / Youth Space - Rutherford	0 (0%)	1 (4%)	11 (48%)	7 (30%)	4 (17%)	23
BMX Track - Beryl Humble Sporting Complex, Tenambit	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (75%)	1 (12%)	1 (12%)	8
Skate park - Thornton Park	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2
Half basketball court - Thornton Park	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1



Facility	Very poor	Poor	Good	Very good	Excellent	Total
Half basketball court - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1
Skate park - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1
Maitland Moor	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (70%)	3 (30%)	0 (0%)	10
Maitland River Walk	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (71%)	1 (14%)	1 (14%)	7
Maitland Netball Courts	0 (0%)	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4
Coronation Oval	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0
Maitland netball courts	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0

**Question 7. d) For each facility used, how well do you think the facility is maintained?**

**Figure 10. Number and percentage of respondents by facility and maintenance standard**

Facility	Not very well	Well	Very well	Total
Skate park - Maitland Sportsground	3 (30%)	5 (50%)	2 (20%)	10
Skate park - Largs Park	2 (25%)	6 (75%)	0 (0%)	8
Skate park - Harold Gregson Reserve	2 (33%)	4 (67%)	0 (0%)	6
Half basketball court - Metford Recreation Reserve	0 (0%)	4 (100%)	0 (0%)	4
Skate park - Metford Recreation Reserve	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3
Skate park / Youth Space - Rutherford	6 (26%)	13 (57%)	4 (17%)	23
BMX Track - Beryl Humble Sporting Complex, Tenambit	0 (0%)	6 (75%)	2 (25%)	8
Skate park - Thornton Park	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2
Half basketball court - Thornton Park	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1
Half basketball court - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1
Skate park - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1
Maitland Moor	0 (0%)	8 (80%)	2 (20%)	10
Maitland River Walk	0 (0%)	5 (71%)	2 (29%)	7
<b>Other, please specify:</b>	<b>Not very well</b>	<b>Well</b>	<b>Very well</b>	<b>Total</b>
Maitland Netball Courts	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	4

**Question 7. e) For each facility used, do you have any comments on maintenance? Repaired regularly? Particular issues etc.**

**Figure 11. Respondents maintenance response by facility**

Facility	Response
Skate park - Maitland Sportsground	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More bins</li> <li>2. Rubbish and graffiti removal</li> <li>3. Its awesome clean and tidy</li> </ol>
Skate park - Largs Park	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More bins</li> <li>2. Rubbish, additional – bowls</li> <li>3. Too small</li> </ol>
Skate park - Harold Gregson Reserve	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More bins</li> <li>2. Bins</li> <li>3. Both Maitland skateparks are very basic and could do with more current design to complement BMX and scooter riding rather than skateboarding in the 80's</li> </ol>
Skate park / Youth Space - Rutherford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Graffiti not good</li> <li>2. More bins</li> <li>3. Need graffiti removed more often</li> <li>4. Needs extensions</li> <li>5. Skate park need to get rid of graffiti</li> <li>6. Bins</li> <li>7. Too much rubbish</li> </ol>
BMX Track - Beryl Humble Sporting Complex, Tenambit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water bubblers</li> </ol>
Skate park - Fred Harvey Sports Centre, Woodberry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More bins</li> </ol>
Maitland Moor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food</li> </ol>
<b>Other, please specify:</b>	
Maitland Netball Courts	There's always glass and rubbish

**Question 7. f) For each facility you use, do you have any suggested improvements / additional facilities required**

**Figure 12. Respondents suggested improvements and / or additional facilities by facility**

Facility	Response
Skate park / Youth Space - Rutherford	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mural Wall</li> <li>2. More quarter pipes</li> </ol>
Maitland River Walk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More cafes</li> </ol>

**Question 7.g) For each facility used, do you have any other comments?**

**Figure 13. Respondents further comments by facility**

Facility	Response
Maitland River Walk	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mmm coffee, it's good to have lunch down there.</li> </ol>

**Question 8. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about providing places for young people in Maitland?**

**Figure 14. Further comments about providing places for young people**

#	Response
1.	Please consider a Mural wall at the Rutherford youth space.
2.	Keep them off the streets at night
3.	Build bigger skateparks and jumps
4.	More bins more security patrols
5.	We would like to have a foam pit
6.	Graffiti removal
7.	Nope
8.	Need more skateparks in the west
9.	Nope
10.	Nope
11.	More skate shops needed
12.	Happy
13.	We think that a skatepark near the east Maitland swimming pool would be perfect, its in between 2 high schools there are a lot of young people in the area, I see them always riding the streets, the only good parks near there are Largs or Rutherford, Maitland and Medford aren't that good and there are all a long way from east Maitland. They can only get there with parents driving them.

**Question 9. In which suburb do you live?**

**Figure 15. Number of respondents by suburb**







Response	Count	Response	Count
Aberglassyn	9	Oakhampton	0
Ashtonfield	1	Rathluba	0
Bolwarra	0	Raworth	0
Bolwarra Heights	1	Rutherford	11
East Maitland	1	Rutherford North	0
Gilleston Heights	0	South Maitland	0
Green Hills	0	Telarah	1
Largs	0	Tenambit	1
Lochinvar	1	Thornton	1
Lorn	0	Woodberry	0
Maitland	1	Other	4
Metford	0	<b>Total responses</b>	<b>32</b>
Morpeth	0		

**Other:**

#	Response
1.	On holidays in Aberglasslyn
2.	Allandale
3.	Greenhills
4.	Cliffiegh



**Question 10. What is your age group?**

Figure 16. Number and percentage of respondents by age group

Response	Chart	% of respondents	No. of respondents
0 - 4 years old		6%	2
5 - 9 years old		12%	4
10 - 14 years old		68%	23
15 - 19 years old		9%	3
20 - 24 years old		3%	1
24+ years old		3%	1
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>34</b>

**Question 11. Are you male or female?**

Figure 17. Number and percentage of respondents by gender

Response	Chart	% of respondents	No. of respondents
Male		87%	27
Female		13%	4
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>31</b>

**Responses from those who said that they do not use youth spaces**

**Question 1 Do you think spaces for young people are important? Why / why not?**

Figure 18. Respondents response to importance of spaces for young people

#	Response
1.	Yes

**Question 2 What types of youth spaces would you like Maitland to have? Do you have any suggested locations?**

Figure 19. Respondents identified type of youth spaces and potential location

#	Response
1.	Skate parks, youth facilities, sports centres, parks and pools

**Question 3 Are there any key issues with existing youth spaces?**

Figure 20. Respondents identified youth space and issue

Youth Space	Issue
1. Skate park for girls	There isn't one
2. Girls youth facilities	There isn't one

**Question 4 Any further comments?**

Figure 21. Respondents further comments

#	Response
1.	Where is space in between the two skateparks at Rutherford. It should have pink ramps, purple rails, change rooms, jumping pillow

## Full responses for selected questions

### Question 2 What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?

Figure 22. Respondents identified important types of spaces for young people

No.	Response
1.	With the rising population in the Hunter Region with vast areas of new housing being developed, there is a need for place where our young people can interact socially while feeling safe.
2.	More skateparks around shopping centres. Less cramming
3.	Shops, skateparks
4.	Skate parks, footy fields
5.	Skate parks, sport/recreation. X-box
6.	Sporting grounds, skateparks
7.	Areas to ride, skate, scoot, BMX and have fun
8.	Skate parks, football fields
9.	Youth space Maitland Skate Park
10.	Skate park BMX
11.	Skate parks
12.	Skate park
13.	Skate parks
14.	Skate parks, soccer fields
15.	Expand Rutherford skatepark
16.	More skateparks footy field
17.	More skateparks, parks near shopping centre
18.	New skatepark
19.	New skatepark
20.	Bigger skatepark
21.	Skate parks, pools, youth parks
22.	Skate parks, pools, youth, parks
23.	Sport
24.	Skate parks, basketball, jumping pillow

No.	Response
25.	Football field, skateparks, gyms
26.	Skate park and street skate
27.	Skate parks, soccer fields
28.	Wear helmets
29.	The skatepark in Maitland is hugely popular among the local young people
30.	Skate park just some where to hang out
31.	I think skateparks or a place they can ride bikes, skate boards or scooters in safe environment, so they aren't riding on roads and car parks

### Question 3 What activities would you like to do outdoors in your neighbourhood but currently do not? Why not?

Figure 23. Respondents identified activities and reason

#	Response
1.	There is potential for a basketball court in a Rutherford area. Also I personally would like to see a Mural Wall (Not so much a graffiti legal wall like the one that was down Newcastle beach) that could be applied for use through the council or art gallery. Something where a design outline would have to be submitted. This is feel very strongly about as there is no where you can paint and express your self artistically unless you put it in a gallery.
2.	Footy, build cubbies
3.	No extra
4.	Footy, scootering
5.	Footy more sport
6.	Footy, scooter
7.	Skate/ BMX, footy
8.	Walk, play football, ride, scooter
9.	Scooter, football
10.	Have a half pipe for skating in street
11.	Skate tricks Needs learner area

12.	Ride scooter - more footpaths
13.	Theme park activities
14.	Football no proper field
15.	Play football, no proper field
16.	Skate park for girls because they have none and nausea all the boys hog the skatepark
17.	Skate park for THE girls because they don't have one
18.	Not really
19.	Skate park for girls coz there isn't one
20.	Footy
21.	Ride a motorbike
22.	N/a
23.	We live at east Maitland next to east Maitland swimming pool I have a 9 year old son, who he and all his mate are very keen scooter riders and we have to pack all the kids up and take them to Rutherford so they can ride at a good skatepark

**Question 4 What types of facilities would you like to have in your neighbourhood? Where? Do you have a suggested location? What features should it have?**

**Figure 24. Respondents identified type of facility, location and features**

#	Response
1.	As per above a Mural Wall in Rutherford, or possibly under the long bridge if a mural wall/s could be used would be approached that a permit would be applied via council or art gallery.
2.	Happy now except skateparks
3.	Happy with what's there
4.	Like facilities as is
5.	Skate park in Maitland. Just for scooters. Lots of bins (permanent/metal)
6.	Skate park Lochinvar scooter focus - ask scooter riders not just skaters
7.	Parks, skateparks satisfied with what have
8.	More skateparks Rutherford Foam pit, big half pipe
9.	Extend Rutherford skatepark. More bins
10.	More skateparks more open space for skateparks less houses
11.	Learning area at Rutherford
12.	More skateparks in Maitland. Features: spines
13.	Ride my scooter no location. A spine and box feature
14.	Skate parks, place to ride in the street
15.	Ride bikes - BMX track, play football - footy field location - reserve in Scott St, Rutherford
16.	More skateparks Rutherford Box & spine
17.	Skate park Aberglasslyn skatepark - running rails, 1/2 pipe, 1/4 pipe
18.	Scooter, bike Bolwarra Heights Bowl, 1/2 pipe, foam pit, launch
19.	Scooting, Bike riding, Football Location - Aberglasslyn Features - Foam pit, big ramps, Bowl, Boxes (big)
20.	Scooting, Football Location - Somerset Park (where the swamp is) Features: - Bowls, quarter pipes

21.	Jumping pillows in-between the skateparks. Features - heaps of jumping pillows
22.	Massive trampoline room Location - nope Features - trampolines the whole room and stuff
23.	Not really
24.	Horse racing, skatepark for girls location: knock down Aldi features: mirrors, change rooms, moon bounce
25.	Toilets, footpaths, more shade at Rutherford Youth space
26.	Skate park closer. Location: Aberglasslyn. Features: street spots, spines, boxes
27.	Playgrounds Location: Cliffleigh Features: spinning equipment, ropes, spider web
28.	More land for motorbikes in the bush, natural features
29.	I use Maitland skatepark as it is the best suited to BMX in the area. A skatepark in Greenhill gardens could be a great facility.
30.	I think that Thornton skatepark should be fixed I think 6 foot quarter pipes 7 foot roll-ins and a 5 foot spine
31.	I think a good skatepark like the one at Rutherford or the ones in Newcastle would be great near the east Maitland swimming pool. There are 2 big full high schools with in 2km of the pool but no where they can ride bikes scooter etc. beside the streets

**Question 5. Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?**

**Figure 25. Respondents identified additional areas needed for places for young people**

#	Response
1.	N/a
2.	Grenhills Stockland
3.	Maitland - Louth Park. Extensions to skatepark
4.	See previous

5.	See previous
6.	Rutherford Skate/Scooter
7.	Rutherford
8.	More in Maitland
9.	Extend Rutherford Skate Park
10.	Would like a slam facility
11.	Bolwarra Heights
12.	Aberglasslyn
13.	Nope
14.	No
15.	Happy
16.	Wherever there's space
17.	Near footy field
18.	Previous
19.	Happy with what have
20.	The current BMX/scooter/skate facility in Maitland is vastly outdated and could do with vast improvements to meet the standards of those provided to the public in areas like Newcastle, Sydney and Canberra. Also there are next to no mountain biking areas in Maitland. The only real areas worth riding are currently the spots of bushland surrounding Ashtonfield, Thornton, Beresfield and Walka Water Works which are slowly being taken over by housing estates. Some trails out in the hills towards Maitland vale area would be great.
21.	Thornton
22.	East Maitland I think the park near the east Maitland pool would be great

## Appendix 5 – Telephone Interview Notes

A number of key user groups and service providers were contacted via telephone to undertake an interview to identify their views of youth spaces in Maitland, and any issues and ideas that they have for the ongoing improvement and management of facilities.

The following table outlines the groups that were contacted:

Type	Group / Respondent
Service providers	PCYC
	Catholic Care
	Samaritans Foundation
Reference groups	FOYS (Friends of Youth Spaces)
	Woodberry Reference Group
Users	Father of sponsored scooter rider
	Sponsored skateboarder and ex-Maitland resident
Retail	Drift Bikes
	Mutts Scooter Shack
	Fuel Surf, Skate, Ride
	Ozmosis – Green Hills
	Pure Surf Industries – Raymond Terrace
Recreation / sporting club	Maitland / Tenambit BMX Club

The following pages outline all responses received from contacted groups.

### Telephone interview summary

Skate parks were identified by respondents as being the primary type of space that is important for young people in Maitland. A number of different types of spaces were also identified including:

- Both indoor and outdoor areas
- Sporting fields
- A venue or service attached to the local shopping precincts
- Areas for young people to hang out, especially at night time
- Pools, in summer
- Safe public areas

Respondents noted that they have seen an increase in scooter and BMX participation, whilst skateboarding is on the decline. It was also noted that football ovals are used quite heavily.

Suggested alternative activities that young people may want to participate in outdoors but currently don't and / or can't included:

- Musical activities such as band days
- Free sporting competitions (i.e. touch football and basketball)
- Playground based activity (i.e. swing sets, climbing obstacles)
- More adventurous activities such as the Tree-Top climbing facility in Yarramalong



A potential issue with transportation to youth spaces was raised as some areas are only served by one facility, and access is not always available.

It was thought that Maitland currently has adequate facilities for young people, however they are potentially being underutilised. The majority of respondents felt that Council's focus should be on the upgrade and improvement of existing facilities, rather than the development of new youth spaces.

Respondents did however outline a number of potential areas that need additional youth spaces including:

- Rutherford
- Maitland
- East Maitland
- Thornton
- Woodberry
- Tenambit

Key issues regarding the standard of current youth spaces and the maintenance thereof were raised and include:

- Lack of rubbish bins
- Lack of seating
- Lack of BBQ facilities
- Facilities are often targeted at young males, and therefore girls can be left out
- Opportunities for younger children (i.e. slides)

- The location of some parks near pubs or clubs often result in drunken behaviour of people over 18
- Out of date skatepark design, and they are all almost identical

The potential site improvements that were suggested include:

- Better lighting
- Security – potential partnership with licensed venues
- General upgrades on a continuing basis
- BMX facilities – other than the Maitland / Tenambit BMX Club track, there aren't many options for riders.

A number of avenues for engagement and management opportunities for young people were identified including:

- Schools and youth organisation involvement
- Visit the skateparks and other areas during peak times.
- Hold events at local parks
- Local interagency involvement
- Social network pages
- Use of existing youth networks and workers
- Make areas fun, accessible and free!
- Skateboarding and other activities are a respect orientated activity, so hiring those in the community who have already established that respect of other users is a good way to go
- Hold workshops, event and demo's to get the kids excited about the area's and things that are happening



13/12/11

- Competitions at the parks
- Kids want to be involved in what happens at facilities, they just need to be given the opportunity.
- Get the parents involved

**PCYC interview notes**

The respondent is also a member of FOYS.

What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?	What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?	Have you seen any trends emerging in youth spaces or facility needs? Skate, BMX, Scooter?		What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?	Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?
I believe a mix of outdoor and indoor spaces are important, however I believe most issues surround those areas that are outdoors, due to the lack of supervision.	No response.	Scooter.		Type: I believe Maitland has adequate facilities for young people, just at times underutilised and certainly not recognised well enough by local council. There seems to be a constant push to find or build new facilities, when many of them exist already. In saying that, most schools are completely locked up and therefore access to sporting grounds and basketball courts are not available. Features: Affordability, accessible and young people friendly.	Outdoor basketball courts, and controlled access to school grounds. Rutherford, Maitland, East Maitland, Thornton and Woodberry.
What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?	Where should Council's priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?	Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?	How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?	What would help actively engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?	Any further comments?
Standard: Outdoor facilities consistently vandalised and poorly maintained. Issues: Not supervised. Improvements: Less outdoor facilities and better promotion of indoor facilities such as PCYC, Headspace, and Maitland Federation Centre.	Existing facilities.	Possibly, but it should be a council or community contribution, just like the roads.	Show that they have a genuine interest in the outcomes for young people.	Schools and youth organisation involvement, but I think there are plenty of young people using outdoor facilities. They should be encouraged to use indoor facilities, which are supervised.	By engaging schools and youth organisations and supporting those groups you will achieve better outcomes for young people.

### Samaritans Foundation interview notes

<p><b>What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?</b></p>	<p><b>What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?</b></p>	<p><b>Have you seen any trends emerging in youth spaces or facility needs? Skate, BMX, Scooter?</b></p>	<p><b>What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?</b></p>	<p><b>Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / MTB or hang out etc.? Where?</b></p>
<p>The young people I have worked with place a great amount of value in local skateparks and sporting fields. These are open areas where they can just hang out or play sports.</p>	<p>Musical performances such as band days, casual (free) sporting competitions (e.g. touch footy and basketball) Or why not combine the two? There is nowhere (free) to do it and no one (paid) to run them</p>	<p>Skate/scooter and BMX parks need to have shade and seating for spectators. Entire families go to some skateparks and there is often nowhere for parents and younger children to sit sheltered. Also, rubbish bins are needed at these parks, as they are often a mess. Facilities such as BBQ's and stuff for smaller children would help make the area more appealing (e.g. slides.) Some facilities for older people. These facilities are often targeted at young males. It would be great if an activity for young women could also be included somehow.</p>	<p>Type: A venue or service attached to the local shopping precincts could be beneficial especially in holidays and Thursday nights. Features: Youth engagement officer?</p>	<p>No response.</p>
<p><b>What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?</b></p>	<p><b>Where should Council's priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?</b></p>	<p><b>Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?</b></p>	<p><b>How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?</b></p>	<p><b>What would engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?</b></p>



Standard: Rutherford is in good condition and Woodberry is being improved with the addition of BMX facilities. The skatepark in Maitland – Harold Gregson - seems to be rarely used (No one there when I pass it.) It seems to be isolated to the rest of the community. There may be safety concerns? Issues: The location of some parks near pubs or clubs and often result in drunken behaviour of people over 18. Some skateparks and other facilities get littered with bottles. Improvements: Could there be better lighting or a partnership with licensed venues? Security?

Get what already exists right before moving onto other sites. The best example I can think of is Wallsend’s new skatepark. Now the old park is sitting unused less than one kilometre from the new park.

Attendance at these parks during peak times to talk to facility users. Events at local park. Local interagency involvement

The role would be ever evolving as young people grow up and get jobs go to TAFE or uni, so it would not be a one off. The process would be continual. You could say “we engaged with YP now we don’t need to for a few years”. A social network page giving YP the ability to see what is happening and provide feedback on processes the council is undertaking. · Using existing youth networks and workers

Make it fun, accessible and free.

## Catholic Care interview notes

The respondent is also a member of the Woodberry Reference Group.

What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?	What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?	What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?	What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?	Are there areas around Maitland that need places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / MTB or generally hang out etc.? Where?	
<p>In Woodberry the skatepark is a big asset as that is all that they have. The biggest thing we hear is that they want skateparks done up – it has been upgraded at Woodberry. They always want them to be done up like the ones at Newcastle or Rutherford even – on any give day the Woodberry skatepark is packed</p>	<p>I don't think it's that they can't. Although, transport is an issue. For young people to get anywhere is a big thing. I don't think there is anything they can't necessarily do. Young people however do want more to do. It is isolated here in Woodberry as there is nothing other than the skatepark – there's no pool etc.</p>	<p>Skate parks have always been the major facility need. In the time I've been here, 2 years, skateparks have always been the place for young people to go to. If we as an organisation want to do anything we utilise the skatepark as they are always there. There is nothing else for them to do, so they are always there. Skateboarding has died off here. It's all bikes and scooters – very rarely see skateboarders here.</p>	<p>Everyone always wants something more, but overall it's pretty good. I only work in Woodberry so can only speak about that area. The focus for youth areas should be on skateparks. There are no pools here but there is one in Beresfield so that's close enough. Should probably make more places for young people to hang out, especially of a night – they are generally at the skatepark at nights.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	
What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?	Where should Council's priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?	Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?	How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?	What would help actively engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?	Any further comments?
<p>Standard: It's to a good standard now, with the new track and bit of ramp at Woodberry. However, being that it is the only thing here for young people it could be better. Improvements: Generally upgrading the skatepark.</p>	<p>Focusing on what's there now, and upgrading the area. There is a community hall in the area that definitely needs fixing.</p>	<p>Often they are involved already – Woodberry young people were involved in the plan of the skatepark that has just been re-done.</p>	<p>Getting out to the park itself to engage young people.</p>	<p>They are all playing football; the football oval gets used quite a lot – more so the skatepark and BMX track though.</p>	<p>Catholic Care run programs in Woodberry such as anger management, transition programs from primary to secondary school, and from school to work, indigenous programs etc., among a long list of others.</p>

### Sponsored skateboarder and ex-Maitland resident interview notes

What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?	What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?	Have you seen any trends emerging in youth spaces or facility needs? Skate, BMX, Scooter?	What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?	Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?	
Skate parks most definitely, regardless of what the kids choose to ride be it skateboard BMX or scooter, a skatepark provides a great atmosphere and a great place for social development and respect.	Maitland has got it pretty much covered, aside from out of date skatepark design. Council have recognised that the needs of young people have changed over time and that there is a trend towards providing different settings.	The skateboard community has always been around in Maitland, but the current trend of younger kids on scooters has grown tenfold.	Type: The Maitland area has a good number of skateparks; the problem is they are all poorly designed and all almost identical when variety is important in an activity such as skateboarding. Location: Extend the current park in Maitland, there is plenty of room around it and it is in a great location already. Features: Good examples of parks done correctly in Australia: Belconnen ACT, Ramp it VIC, Frankston VIC, Waterloo NSW, Cairns QLD	As I said before, there seems to be a lot skateparks around the general Maitland area, they all just need to be updated.	
What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?	Where should Council's priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?	Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?	How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?	What would help actively engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?	Any further comments?
Mentioned in previous answers.	Improving old facilities	No response.	Skateboarding is a respect-orientated activity. Hiring those in the community who have already established the respect of everyone is definitely the best way to go.	Hold workshops, events, and demos for the kids to get involved in and excited about, the right contacts are needed to do it correctly.	No response.



### Father of sponsored scooter rider from Rutherford

What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?	What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?	Have you seen any trends emerging in youth spaces or facility needs? Skate, BMX, Scooter?	What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?	Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?
<p>Skate parks – somewhere they can go and hang, all together in a good environment, rather than on the street and at shops etc. If they have a place to go where people know that they are it's good.</p>	<p>Two pools up here, which are big in summer, and a lot of kids play weekend sports. At Largs there is a tennis court next to the skatepark but it is dead and not used. But skateparks are the biggest attraction.</p>	<p>Scooters are definitely the new craze. All the younger kids are all scooters now. The bigger kids go to the bikes. Some of the kids and that, when they get in their late teens, they go back to bikes from scooters, because they are bigger and things. There is still a good amount of skateboarders still hanging around, but scooters are a lot more. Probably 70-30 or 80-20 skate to scooter.</p>	<p>Type: Maitland pool and East Maitland pool, both decent sized, probably lacking a heated pool for winter – there's one in Kurri (private owned) that goes all right, but you have to travel to get there. There's probably not that much to do at the pools – rules are too strict. The old days of diving board etc. aren't allowed now. Location: There are enough pools – parent would probably take their kids to them, so don't need them to be too spread out. Skate parks however, parents aren't too likely to take them, and when kids want to just go and ride after school etc. they need ones close to home. Like I drive my child around because there is not one in East Maitland. Some people think it's a bad thing to get kids all in one spot i.e. skatepark – but its good to know where they are. Definitely need a skatepark in East Maitland. Within two km's there is two big high schools, and if there were enough kids to fill two big schools, there is nowhere to ride – one there would get used. We live in like a dead end street, and there is always kids riding up and down on their bikes and scooters. Largs and Rutherford aren't even really near a train line so kids can't get to them without parents help. Near the pool in East Maitland would be a good area. Even Tenambit could have one. Features: One at Rutherford is probably one of the better ones getting around. Want something that would suit scooter riders and BMX and a little street section for skaters. You need a decent size half-pipe and a few boxes and a spine. Somewhere to launch out and do tricks. A lot of the pipes have rails behind which stops them from doing tricks over and through down the other side. Kids want it to be free flowing. Have it separated, a section for different levels – so you haven't got little toddlers learning in the middle of a half-pipe where the more advanced people are riding. They need the extended jump for better tricks. Wood would be the best instead of dirt, but realistically a concrete down slope would be good, to allow landing – Would need the park to be slightly longer and maybe a quarter pipe at the back with a rail to end the park. The skateboard and bikes pretty much just go up and down and things, but now the scooter riders are getting so good in the area they need the bigger / longer jumps to do new tricks.</p>	<p>Not that many decent sets of swings and climbing things for the younger groups – there's a big one in Maitland and a new one in Rutherford – but that's all I can think of. – Probably need more of them. The only other thing is to organise different things – touch rugby comps etc. The skateparks can be left alone- left up to the kids to go to themselves and doesn't need people to run it etc. Anything else like basketball and things need a group of interested people and for it to be structured and set up.</p>





What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?	Where should Council's priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?	Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?	How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?	What would help actively engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?	Any further comments?
<p>Standard: The parks in Maitland are ok – The Rutherford one is not too bad. It could be extended and have a few extra things – kids want different things now – spines! More range is better! – In terms of elements. Issues: n/a. Improvements: Maitland has two little skateparks next to each other – not many people go there – they could probably have a bit money spent on them, because there is space there and not much else, plenty of opportunity to make it better, and spend money there. A spine, and a couple of launches – at Maitland there is nowhere for them to do the big aerial tricks. – And it's close to train station so kids who don't have a park nearby, they can get to Maitland. Largs could get improved a lot! – But kids can't get there other than getting a lift there.</p>	<p>Depends on the money they have to spend. If they want to get serious, another two or three parks would be good! One in East Maitland, and near Greenhills, where the shops are being done up and there's a lot of development happening – it's massively growing, but there's nothing for kids to do. More is better! If going to do it on the cheap, fix up the ones they got.</p>	<p>The thing is, they will all whinge after things get changed / fixed, cant stop that. Incentives might work – we will improve it if it is being kept up – but they need to see that its true, need to back that up. Having it really well lit, might help stop vandalism etc. Places around the park for parents etc. to sit would be good – get the parents involved. In Largs there was a log to sit on, where you would see a group of parents there on any given day with their kids - But that has been taken away now. Somewhere to get the kids off the park so they are not sitting on the park. Largs- it was only a log, but is was so well used.</p>	<p>Every time a comp is run, it's packed!</p>	<p>Rutherford do the comps 2 or 3 times a year and they are huge! MUTSS run the competitions, and my kids get involved in running demonstrations etc. The owner of MUTTS is into all that; he puts up prizes, and does handouts etc. MUTTS are based in Wyong –they helped to run the ones in Rutherford and things – done the last couple I think which have been successful! If there were more parks to a better standard where they could do better tricks, they would run better competitions. Definitely enough demand in Maitland for more competitions to be run! Everything is on the net and things now - kids travel from Newcastle up here for comps and things. Some of the stuff gets in the paper about skateparks and things being vandalised etc. – the etiquette between the kids is so good though! Good etiquette between the different groups – skate, BMX and scooters. Really good culture around the skateparks – only a bit of swearing etc. which u will get when you put a group of kids together anyway. Any of the vandalism is coming from the older people, not the ones that actually use the park - They just hang at the skatepark.</p>	<p>When it comes to organising those things like competitions etc., Council gets in contact with the guy from Mutts, he's more than happy to help out.</p>

### Mutts Scooter Shack interview notes

<p><b>What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?</b></p>	<p><b>What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?</b></p>	<p><b>Have you seen any trends emerging in youth spaces or facility needs? Skate, BMX, Scooter?</b></p>	<p><b>What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?</b></p>	<p><b>Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?</b></p>	
<p>Well they certainly need bigger and better skateparks. You only have to go to my local facility at Wadalba on the Central Coast. No one on the tennis courts, basketball courts or the football oval but 200 kids struggling to find space on the small skatepark. It should be simple to see what the kids want</p>	<p>I think the kids want more adventurous stuff. Not tennis, basketball and soccer. The treetop-climbing thing in Yarramalong is great. Yes, it needs to be staffed and supervised but boys and girls alike love the place. If you want to get kids out the house and off the laptop, you have to offer them something more exciting these days. Kids paintball. Because there is nothing like this</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>See previous response.</p>	<p>Probably, but I am not from Maitland so can't comment on where</p>	
<p><b>What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?</b></p>	<p><b>Where should Council's priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?</b></p>	<p><b>Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?</b></p>	<p><b>How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?</b></p>	<p><b>What would help actively engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?</b></p>	<p><b>Any further comments?</b></p>
<p>From what I have seen, it looks a bit halfhearted. Rather than lots of mini parks scattered around, give Maitland one huge skatepark that will attract riders from all over. Give it flood lights maybe.</p>	<p>New facilities.</p>	<p>Yes. Kids want to be involved in the running of these things. At the moment they feel they get dumped on and are frowned upon. Get them involved properly in the running of the place and they will look after it better.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>No response.</p>	<p>At the event at Rutherford that we sponsored, I met a police officer that was involved in the Blue Light thing. He was moaning about how the park was always being attacked with graffiti and how the kids didn't respect what they had. I suggested that these things are nothing to do with the skatepark users, and that it only needs for a police car as it passes the skatepark (night or day) to stop, shine his light to let anyone there know they are being watched and a lot of the graffiti would stop. He said that this wasn't practical. Yet there is probably 3 cars patrolling that street all night looking for DDs and speeders, but they can't find 2 minutes every now and then to try and protect the skatepark for the kids? It's the same thing here on the central coast. The police are here to protect the community from all crime, not just those that create revenue. It's about time the police got back to doing what they are supposed to do and not just blame these problems on the kids themselves.</p>

### Maitland / Tenambit BMX Club interview notes

What type of spaces do you think are important for young people in Maitland?	What activities do you think young people would like to do outdoors in Maitland but currently do not? Why not?	Have you seen any trends emerging in youth spaces or facility needs? Skate, BMX, Scooter?	What types of youth spaces / facilities do you think Maitland should have? Where? What features should it have?	Are there any areas around Maitland that need additional places for young people to skate / ride / scooter / BMX / Mountain bike or generally hang out etc.? Where?	
Somewhere they can hang out safe, and be provided what they need to keep out of trouble	Not a clue – they all congregate at shops, which creates a problem on Thursday nights – maybe somewhere safe for them to hang out then – that’s what a centre provides for them, a safe environment as it is under lights and in an open area.	BMX has taken off. Good growth occurring in the number of younger riders.	Type: Area’s for them to hang out where there is a milk bar and food court – primarily for the younger ones, so that they can be involved in a safe environment with friends. Location: Everywhere. Features: Milk bars, and a food court. That is where you will generally find them.	Every area has a lack of organised youth programs and places – they seem to be left to their own devices to congregate and get in trouble. – They have skateparks and basketball courts and that type of thing, but yeah, other options would be good. Newcastle has a pump track, but nothing much else in the area for BMX other than our track. Most of the kids create their own tracks and jumps in the bush.	
What is the standard of current youth spaces? Are there any issues? What improvements do you suggest?	Where should Council’s priorities be? New facilities or old facilities?	Is there a way to encourage users to be involved in the management of facilities?	How can Council actively engage youths in an ongoing role?	What would help actively engage young people in Maitland and encourage them to participate in outdoor physical activity and sport?	Any further comments?
I’m unsure; I don’t live in the area.	Both – upgrade and support what they have already, like the car track and the BMX track – build more areas in Council’s boundaries to provide more areas for the kids to go to, so they don’t all congregate in the one spot, as this can lead to trouble occurring.	Half the part is getting the parents involved – if the parents get involved, the kids will get involved. The mentality is that if they see their parents not doing anything, they have the sense of well why should I? Educate the parents and older kids who are role models for the younger generation.	We run come and try days, and have quite a good success rate of people joining the club from that – setting up well known people from the different sports to do guest appearances and that type of thing would generate interest in the skateparks and other areas.	It is just one of those things where you need to get the parents involved – either both parents are out at jobs getting money to support the family and cant get involved due to time constraints – or the parents are sitting their collecting the dole and the kids follow suit- If parents are enthusiastic about it the kids will be too.	We have seen a large growth in younger riders like 5-12 year olds – huge growth spurt there. Between 13 to 16 they drop off.



## Appendix 6 - Consultation Website Forum Submissions and Responses

A consultation website was created allowing all members of the community, and other key stakeholders, to have the opportunity to have their say on youth spaces in Maitland.

The methods available for the community to get involved included an online forum hosted on the consultation website, and the option to send a submission electronically via a comment form on the website.

The following table outlines any submissions received and forum conversations held regarding youth spaces in Maitland.

### Consultation website forum submissions and responses

Who	Date	Submission content	@leisure's response / action
Community respondent 1	30 August 2011	Skate parks are soooo clichéd! Seriously... time to get new ideas!	Incorporated response into Demand and Consultation Findings report (response was submitted to @leisure directly and contact details were not left).
Jeremy	30 August 2011	Hello, I would like If a Mural wall was available for use by the public by applying through Council. I don't promote vandalism, but I am into graffiti Art/Aerosol Art mixed with other mediums. The wall could be booked out once a month and could be used by the local high school.	Hi Jeremy, Thanks for the comment! We will be holding public meetings at six different locations across Maitland this weekend and we will be sure to ask people about their thoughts on graffiti / public art walls. For more info on where and when we are meeting this weekend, head to our 'Public Workshops' page. Thanks, From the @leisure team
Jeremy	05 September 2011	Hello, Thank you for your reply. As I was unable to attend the Rutherford Youth Space Workshop. I was just wondering how the turn out was and will there be any outcomes from the workshop held on Saturday. If the Idea for an Art wall/Legal wall was mentioned what was the response. I don't believe there would be a positive attitude as people do not want to promote graffiti nor Do I think there is not a whole lot of interest. Truthfully, the only way a project of kind will allowed to proceed if there was somehow value to community along side cost construction and maintenance. There was a concept that was raised that potentially hat at the Rutherford Youth Space that potentially a wall could be build along the footpath which would stop people looking down at the skatepark and the wall could be use for advertising. But with that the plan is open with allows police to patrol the area more efficiently with out having to turn off the main road.	Hi Jeremy, Sorry you couldn't attend the Rutherford Youth Space Workshop. We received a good turn out, with a range of scooter riders and skateboarders attending. Be sure to head to the 'Public Workshops' page and view our notes for the workshop. As you noted, the workshops highlighted that current users of spaces in Maitland don't want to promote un-authorised graffiti, however they thought that the idea of public art/graffiti walls is good, and could hopefully limit the un-authorised graffiti that occurs. Thanks for your additional thoughts on how a public art wall / legal wall project could work. We will be sure to include this in our report back to Maitland City Council. Thanks, From the @leisure team
Kids from Thornton skatepark	05 September 2011	Hi would you be able to fix Thornton sk8 park if you build can you put in a bowl, spine, 6 foot quarters, 7 foot roll-ins, a big box, hip off the side of the 6 foot quarters and a big tarp over the top so please fix our sk8 park in Thornton	Incorporated response into Demand and Consultation Findings report (response was submitted to @leisure directly and contact details were not left).

Who	Date	Submission content	@leisure's response / action
Unknown	05 September 2011	I think you should put a spine in bigger quarter pipes and a bigger box and a big tarp over the top or a hole new skatepark that would be nice if you do this from gets from Thornton sk8 park please please please!	Incorporated response into Demand and Consultation Findings report (response was submitted to @leisure directly and contact details were not left).
The kids at Thornton sk8 park	05 September 2011	Hi I'm writing to you about my local sk8 park I think and so does all the boys and girls that ride need a better sk8 park due to our sk8 park is small we think to improve our skills we need to go big and better and we need a better skatepark to achieve this we have talk it over if you were to rebulid a sk8 park it would have to contain 6 foot quarters, 7 foot roll-in, 5 foot spine, a big boxes, a half pipe, or a bowl this was to happens us kids at Thornton sk8 park would be able to improve our skills and would very appreciated so please fix Thornton sk8 park thanks from the kids at Thornton sk8 park	Incorporated response into Demand and Consultation Findings report (response was submitted to @leisure directly and contact details were not left).
The kids from Thornton skaty	05 September 2011	Hi I think and so does all my mate think Thornton sk8 park needs a couple of extra things what we had in mind was a big tarp over the sk8 park to lower the risk of getting burnt and creating cancer and on the ground a bowl or a half pipe and 5 foot spine a 6 foot quarter, 7 foot roll-in so please fix our park and by you fixing our park it will bring some new talent in to the BMX community, scooter community, skateboard community please fix our park	Incorporated response into Demand and Consultation Findings report (response was submitted to @leisure directly and contact details were not left).



13/12/11

