

Regional Conversations Schedule OVERVIEW

(Blue indicates off site venues other than the Paterson Room.)

	10:00 am	1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Mon 18 August	Secondary Students This session is booked out.	1:00 pm Council Staff Paterson Room Maitland Town Hall	Gallery staff This session is for MRAG staff only
Tuesday 19 August	10:00 am Young adults (aged 18-25) Paterson Room Maitland Town Hall	1:00 pm Senior Citizens (over 55s) Paterson Room Maitland Town Hall	4:00pm Men (aged 25-55) Paterson Room Maitland Town Hall
Wednesday 20 August	10:30am Indigenous Members of the Community Mindaribba Land Council Lot 457 Chelmsford Drive, Metford, 2323	Primary aged children This session is booked out	
Thursday 21 August	10:00 am Parents of Children and Young People Paterson Room, Maitland Town Hall	1:00pm Women (aged 25-55) Paterson Room, Maitland Town Hall	4:00 pm Education Professionals Paterson Room, Maitland Town Hall
Friday 22 August	10:00 am Creative group Paterson Room Maitland Town Hall	1:00 pm Advocates for & people with special needs or people with a disability Paterson Room Maitland Town Hall	Secondary Students, Seniors This session is booked out

List of Groups

Council Staff
Creative and Artistic community members
People with special needs & advocates for special needs.
Indigenous members of the community
Education Professionals
Children of Primary school age (years 1,2,3 & years 4,5,6)
Children of Secondary school age (year 8 & year 11)
Young Adults (aged 18-25)
Parents of children & young people
Men (aged 25-55)
Women (aged 25-55)
Seniors (aged 55+)

Paterson Room, Maitland Town Hall: Access information.

Wheelchair or Pram Access: wheelchair access is at the rear and side of the building (side entrance on the council chambers side of the building)
Toilets: Male and female wheelchair access toilets available.
Baby changing: there are no facilities in the bathrooms, but council staff will be able to provide you with a table area and privacy if you require.
Hearing Loop: there is no hearing loop in the Paterson Room, however arrangements can be made to provide for the hearing impaired. Please inform the gallery of anything you require.
Dietary requirements: These meetings will be catered, with a reasonable variety of foods aimed to cater for multiple dietary needs. If you wish to inform us of a special dietary request please inform us at the time of booking.

Regional Conversations Project: Frequently Asked Questions

An Audience Development project for Maitland Regional Art Gallery

18th – 22nd August 2008

During the closure of the building, the art gallery has developed an audience development program (funded by Arts NSW) that will help us better identify with different members of the community and provide better services for different audience members when the new gallery opens. Maitland Regional Art Gallery's Audience Development project (called '*Regional Conversations*') concerns all aspects of the gallery, and we aim to cover as many sectors of the community as possible, including kids and young people, educators, council staff, indigenous groups, senior citizens and parents of young families.

What is Audience Development?

As a public institution, we are keen to confer with different sectors of the community and gauge the diverse needs and wants of these community sectors.

These 'conversations' with the community are intended to be casual, comfortable small group discussions, and will cover topics regarding what sort of exhibitions or programs we could run in the future, what issues or factors impede current possible audience members from using the art gallery, what information needs to be more available, and what programs or exhibitions have worked in the past.

The resulting data will be developed into an action plan that will assist us provide better services in the future.

What community sectors are you targeting?

12 groups have been created, and these groups aim to broadly target many aspects of the community. The group's names are:

Council Staff

Creative and Artistic community members

People with a disability, special need or mental illness, or their advocates.

Indigenous members of the community

Education Professionals

Children of Primary school age

Children of Secondary school age

Young Adults (aged 18-25)

Parents of children and young people

Men (aged 25-55)

Women (aged 25-55)

Senior Citizens (aged 55+)

Many people will naturally fall into 2 or even more groups. Please contact the gallery to inquire about any of these groups or confirm your attendance.

Who is running the Regional Conversations Project meetings?

We have secured funding from Arts NSW to contract two consultants, Dr Barbara Piscitelli and Dr Lynda Kelly, both of whom have extensive experience in Audience Development. In addition the meeting will be facilitated by Joe Eisenberg, the Art Gallery Director, and other gallery staff will attend according to their role at the gallery.

Why are you doing an Audience Development Project? What is happening at the Art Gallery?

This Audience Development Project is aptly timed for Maitland Regional Art Gallery. Since May 2008 we have shut our doors in order to renovation and add significant new spaces to our current building, located on High St in the old Technical College (a few doors down from Centrelink).

When the new aspects of the gallery are finished in mid 2009, our exhibition spaces will have increased threefold, and the public and education programs we run will increase dramatically. Some new aspects of the building also include a children's and young people's exhibition space, a gallery café, and a larger gift and book shop.

How do I confirm I will be attending a session of Maitland Regional Art Gallery's Regional Conversations Project?

Please call or email the gallery to confirm attendance. We will need to take your full name, contact number and mailing address, and we will confirm for you the time and date of the session you wish to attend. Our contacts are:

Maitland Regional Art Gallery

Ph: 4934 9859

Email: artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au