

>> Changing face of Mayfield

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Mayfield is on the move



Webb of Life committee member Bronwyn Greive will help revitalise Webb Park, Mayfield.

Mayfield's people power has helped the suburb move from the shadow of BHP to stand alone as an inviting multicultural hot pot with a strong sense of community ...

BY NELLIE HEJDUK

Mayfield has had its fair share of setbacks – proposals to close the local pool, the plastification plant and the Telstra tower.

Rather than sit back and wait the community pulled together to fight for what it wants.

And for the most part, people power has won.

An OneSteel development application for a plastification plant in Mayfield East was turned down earlier this year after Mayfield East Residents Group put up a fight.

In its place a fume extraction and internally venting filtration system will be built.

Mayfield pool will also remain open, after Newcastle City Council agreed last year to keep it open for the short-term.

The council wanted to close the pool to cut costs and help pay for the redevelopment of Lambton pool.

Recent setbacks have been council's approval of a Telstra mobile phone tower last year, despite residents' concerns about possible health risks.

But if there is one thing Mayfield has learnt in its 128-year history it is that many hands make light work.

Local community groups include Webb of Life, Mayfield East Residents Group, the community forum, the Mayfield Main Street committee, Save the Mayfield Pool group, Mayfield on the Move – just to name a few and they all meet quarterly as part of the Mayfield Matters group.

And their belief in their community goes to show that dedication and perseverance does pay off.

More than \$6000 was approved to revitalise Webb Park through council's Community Assistance program at the June 3 ordinary council meeting.

The money will be used by the Webb of Life committee to have a consultant draw up a landscape master plan, staging plan and statement of environmental effects.

Committee member Bronwyn Greive said because Mayfield was low on green space the community needed to make the space it did have work for them.

The revitalised park, which is estimated to take about four years to finish, will have community gardens, the memorial will be moved to the park's entrance, performer's space and a meandering path through the park's centre.

Today, Wednesday June 11, the Main Street Committee will launch the Mayfield Business Directory and local business awards, which has been 18 months in the making.

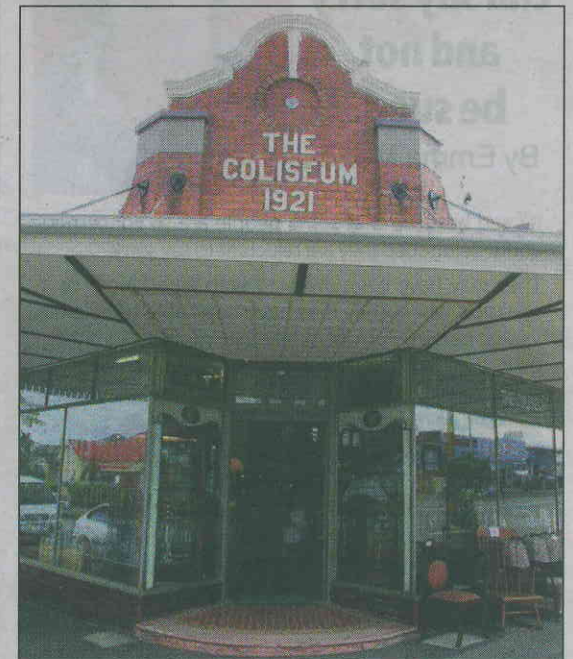
A \$20,000 NSW Department of State and Regional Development grant helped the project on its way.

The directory will be distributed to 20,000 people.

But it's not just the locals who have faith in their suburb with Aldi buying land in Mayfield to build a supermarket.



Above: The Coliseum, on Maitland Road, built in 1921 was originally a haberdashery store owned by the late Leo Maley. When he died it was boarded up and became run down and a home for squatters.



Right: In December 2002, George Burke bought the building at auction for \$400,000 and 21 months later after much work Today it was revamped into an antique shop.

Mayfield's history

Mayfield was named after the land developer's daughter John Scholey, May.

In about 1880, Mayfield attracted well-off Novocastrians, who lived in villas outside Newcastle.

But with more people moving to town because of the BHP and other industry, the upper class moved away.

With the suburb located on the major transport routes of Maitland Road and the Great Northern Railway, it grew to be the working man's suburb.

This was only further enhanced when land, which was reserved for botanical gardens near the Hunter River was overtaken by the steel works.