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Media Release

PLAY TIME IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AT NEW PARK

Residents of Gillieston Heights and visitors to the area will soon be enjoying a new park and playground on a special reserve on the corner of Champion Crescent and Scenic Drive, Gillieston Heights.

Construction will start this month to create the playground, paths and landscaping, with the park ready for community use during the summer school holidays. The contract for the landscaping and playground construction has been awarded after a competitive tender process.

Maitland City Council is proposing to name the new park in honour of Joseph Maxwell, one of Gillieston's favourite sons who received Australia's highest military decoration, the Victoria Cross, for his bravery on the battlefield whilst serving with the Australian Infantry Force (AIF) in the Great War.

Joseph Maxwell VC served at Gallipoli, where he saw fighting at Hill 60 and Lone Pine, and later fought at Pozieres, France, during the middle stages of the 1916 Battle of the Somme.

Maitland City Councillor, Henry Meskauskas, said: "As we approach the Centenary of Gallipoli, the dedication of Joseph Maxwell Park at Gillieston Heights is a fitting tribute to remind current and future generations of Australians of the gallantry of this great man and many like him who fought for our country in the Great War."

Maitland RSL President, Eric Bell, said: "The RSL congratulates and supports the naming process as it is important to remember one of our local young men, formerly a student of Gillieston Public School, who attained the highest military honour, the Victoria Cross."

The new Joseph Maxwell VC Park and playground forms part of the 'Maitland Section 94 Contributions City Wide 2006 Plan', which applied to new residential development in this area. Funding for the park and playground was accrued through progressive cash contributions from new residential development across Gillieston Heights.

This includes contributions from Stockland's Darcy's Peak project, and a neighbouring residential development. Stockland will complete the Joseph Maxwell Park and playground and hand the area over to Council for public use.

Stephen Barlow, Residential Regional Manager at Stockland, said: "We're looking forward to completing this park and playground for the local community and hope it gives residents and visitors to the area many years of fun and enjoyment."

Joseph Maxwell was a former student of Gillieston Public School. Maitland City Council is planning to involve students in the official opening ceremony for Joseph Maxwell VC Park and playground, and the Council is also calling on any relatives of Joseph Maxwell to contact Council so they may be involved in the dedication and naming ceremony in the new year.

Stockland

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