

Students get a taste of the country life

By Nick Bielby
Dec. 16, 2013



WELCOME TO MAITLAND: Mayor Peter Blackmore with Singapore law students Benjamin Loh and Margaret Huang. Picture by STUART SCOTT

University students from Singapore visited Maitland on the weekend for a taste of rural life and to learn more about local government.

Sixteen Singapore Management University students stopped for morning tea with mayor of Maitland, Cr Peter Blackmore as part of a 13-week course on the Australian legal system and government.

Student Margaret Huang said she was looking forward to getting an insight into how local government worked in Australia.

“Basically the practical aspect of the course is to find out what is really going on with the Australian legal system and parliamentary system, which is very different to Singapore,” she said.



Publication: The Maitland Mercury
Date: 16 December 2013
Headline: Students get a taste of the country life

Benjamin Loh, also a student, said part of the trip involved getting a taste of Australian culture outside the capital cities.

“In Singapore everything is hustle and bustle and people are rushing around to do things but here the pace seems to be slower,” he said.

Kristen Edmonds lectures the students in Singapore but grew up in East Gresford.

Ms Edmonds said visiting the Hunter gave the students more depth to their growing knowledge of Australia.

“I felt that even though a lot of Singaporeans travel to the cities when they come here, they very rarely get out into the countryside to see a little bit more of the real Australia,” she said. “I think this just adds that extra element to the trip.”

Cr Blackmore spoke to the students about the growth of the city and some of the points of difference between country NSW and Singapore, such as population size.

“It’s a great feeling to think they want to come and learn about Maitland. It’s a great cultural exchange,” he said.