

MAITLAND BRANCH REPORT

The annual picnic was held in Tucker Park, Paterson on Wednesday 4th May 2016. 13 members

enjoyed another perfect day on the banks of the Paterson River. We also had the pleasure of meeting visitors David and Jenny Crouch from Gresford who have agreed to join our Branch.

Members of Maitland NSCFAA Branch visited Fort Scratchiey on Wednesday 18th May 2016. Our guides Jim Raine and John Cater ensured it was a most interesting and informative tour of the Fort and tunnels. Their knowledge on the history of the fort and Newcastle in general was excellent and all members of the group came away with a greater appreciation of the role that Fort Scratchiey has played over the years

Maitland NSCFAA Branch participated in ANZAC Day and Remembrance services. Korean War Memorial at Maitland Park, Boer War and Sandakan memorials at Maitland Park. Combined Nashos Memorial at Maitland Park, Battle for Australia at Fort Scratchiey, Reserves Forces Day in Newcastle. Vietnam veteran's day at Maitland Park

On Friday 8th April Bruce Mears, Fred Goode and Padre Eric Bell attended Gillieston Public School and gave an ANZAC Day address. They were accompanied by Chief Petty Officer Cath Harvey who was invited to give a talk to Children in their classrooms about her Naval Experiences.

Bruce presented the School Captain with a book for the School Library.

On Wednesday 27th April Maitland NACFAA Bruce Mears and Allen Russ attended St Aloysius Primary School Chisholm and gave addresses on the history of ANZACs and ANZAC DAY.

The students were shown a Powerpoint Presentation on what the Allied forces faced when they landed on the beach at ANZAC Cove and what the Gallipoli Peninsula looks like today.

The School Captains were presented with a book for their Library.

Bus trips. The first bus trip for the year as part of the Travel Program resulting from the recent DVA Grant was to Winsor for the Paddle Wheeler Cruise on the Hawkesbury River the day started out a bit overcast but later turned out pleasant and sunny. Our 2nd bus trip was to Honeycomb Farm near Nabiac on Thursday 6th September. 42 members and friends attended and had a very pleasant and interesting day. Lunch was held at the Nabiac Hotel.

On Wednesday 31st August East Maitland RSL Sub Branch sponsored a visit to the Singleton Infantry Museum a number of Maitland NSCFAA members took part in the visit that turned out to be a very interesting day with a meal at Singleton RSL.

The 2015 Christmas Lunch was held at the Telarah Bowling Club with 55 members and guests enjoying a very pleasant day Newcastle and Nelson Bay NSCFAA members also attended.

Christmas in July lunch was held at Billabongs Restaurant. It was a very enjoyable day with around 75 members and guests in attendance. The High light of the day was our special guests Sarah Van Foort and Georgia Filis who were two of the local School Students that were selected to be part of the Hunter Valley District Council of RSL Sub Branches ANZAC tour. Sarah and Georgia gave enthralling accounts of their experiences during the tour of Gallipoli & how they were affected by retracing the steps of the ANZACS We had two Sausage Sizzles for the year the first was at Masters Rutherford. The Masters fund raiser was held on Saturday 31st October 2016. It was a rainy day a profit of &500 was made. The other Sausage Sizzle was held at Bunnings Maitland 1s t October 2016.13 Members helped run the sausage sizzle. A profit of \$1200 was made on the day.

Combined Nasho's meetings which are held every three months the last one was held by the Maitland Branch at East Maitland RSL Sub Hall. The next one will be held at Gosford RSL Officers for 2016-17. President Bruce Mears. Vice President Fred Goode Secretary Allen Russ Treasurer Elaine Mudford