

## President's Report to STATE COUNCIL from Newcastle Branch.

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016 at Newcastle District A.G.M. I was elected President of this Branch for the coming year. I was elected from the floor and held no position in the Branch in the past year so I thank our Secretary Rosemary for her assistance in making this Report and due to my absence reading it out to you today.

Since last year our Branch has attended Christmas Lunches at Maitland, Nelson Bay and our own Branch Party and we have had some great comederie and good times with members from both areas.

We realise that we are all getting older now and we have had quite a few OBE'S this year. Because of this problem of age we also noted that even though we had wonderful weather for Our National Service Day held in Civic Park it was low in numbers attending and those who formed up and marched into the Park.

A bus trip down the south coast to Merimbula was arranged by Rosemary and one our quiet and good members Terry Kelly. It turned out to be a big success with 33 members and wives taking the trip. All reported a great time with plenty of entertaining stops also a top, well appointed and friendly Motel.

We had a good attendance of numbers from our Branch travel to Maitland Branch for their Xmas in July Party. As usual Maitland Branch put on a top show. Table presentation was brilliant with the delightful and humorous table mats and the two guest speakers as young as they were spoke very well of their experiences touring the battle fields of France and Belgium. Congratulations to the R.S.L. members of Maitland for sending these two bright young ladies over to the poppy fields of France.

We are still doing road closures this year, but not as many as the last previous years.

TAFE dinners and lunches are still a social occasions, as are lunches at different hotels within the Newcastle Area.

One of the most popular outings for our members and wives is the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in each month held in the pavilions below the bowling club on Stockton Beach where our Vice President Robert Burns shows his expertise on the barbeque. The catering is arranged by our treasurer Brenda, with our Harry as usual running the raffle. For an appetiser You may find yourself eating hot little boys and pikelets, jam and cream it's a good mixture.

Kindest regards to all attending State Branch this year and please accept my apologies for non attendance.

Bob Oliver.

