



RSL
NSW

Beat the Retreat 2022 Annual State Congress and AGM

Hosted by the City of Newcastle RSL Sub-Branch

Beat Retreat at Fort Scratchley performed by the Australian Army Band – Newcastle, including firing of the restored guns by the Fort Scratchley Historic Society

When - Sunday 30 October 2022 6.15pm for 6.30pm, concludes 7.15pm

Where – The historic Fort Scratchley overlooking the beautiful City of Newcastle, its beaches, headland, lighthouse and harbour located at 1/3 Nobbys Rd, Newcastle East

Background - Beating Retreat is a modern ceremony that is thought to have its origins in the 16th Century, when drummers would march upon the ramparts of a fortified city to warn all those outside the gates that the gates were about to be closed and everyone should return to safety within the walls. Fighting would also cease at sunset, and following the beating retreat many regiments would sing a hymn in honour of their fallen, and the evening watch would fire three musket volleys 'to put to flight the evil spirits of the enemy dead'. This coincided with the mounting of the evening watch, and in more modern times the procedure has given way to lowering the National Flag.

Getting there - Parking is available at the Fort for those who are driving (Fort Scratchley Parking Lookout - Google Maps). Public transport includes the Newcastle Light Rail which terminates 600m from the Fort. A bus is being arranged from NEX (309 King Street Newcastle West) for those who require it. Please confirm your attendance when you register as a delegate with State Branch, including if you need to use the bus.

