President’s Report
By: Robert (Bob) Barnes – Sub-Branch President

It’s been an interesting month for our RSL starting with the presentation of a cheque in excess of 164,000 peso which I accepted on behalf of the members at Phillies Sports and Grill.

The money will help us to continue our medical missions, wheelchair and hearing aid programs. Please view the photos in this newsletter.

On the subject of wheelchairs, VP Chris Weeks missed the month’s general meeting as he was attending a seminar at the Pan Pacific Manila Hotel hosted by the “Philippine Society of Wheelchair Professionals”. As the committee has decided to continue with the special wheelchairs, it was considered vital that Chris attended representing our Sub Branch and the wheelchair team.

Chris has been running the program for 3 years now and is ready for a well-deserved break. We are looking for a volunteer to take over and organize the wheelchair team and the needs of the special children. This is a hands on position which gives a feeling of achievement and satisfaction.

After the meeting, we had a visitor (now an affiliate member of Angeles), I’m referring to one of the woodmen, Mr John Wallace from Heathcote, Victoria. Along with Colin Carrington who was in Cebu, the woodmen conducted monthly wood raffles and donated all of the funds to our children’s medical missions.

While we were sweating in summer, they were shivering in the Victorian winter selling the tickets at the local IGA supermarket. They have donated in excess of $6,500 which equates to approx. 240,000 peso.
It was my pleasure (and honour) to present them with certificates of appreciation for a job well done and we look forward to the next visit.

On a different subject, I wish to thank Ron Parrott for becoming our Honorary Treasurer, this is a position he has held previously which he did so well. We only need one more volunteer to become the merchandising officer, again a hands on position that doesn’t take as much time as the other positions. This is an opportunity for any member to get involved, Service, Affiliate or Social members are encouraged to apply and get involved.

Finally, readers may recall that the Sub Branch made a donation to the Duyan ni Maria orphanage to provide a roof to the new premises. The building is now complete and the official opening/blessing will take place 29th May. Next month we will be showing photos of the completed project along with more details on the running of the establishment. If anyone wished to attend, please contact the secretary for location and times etc.

_This is Bob Barnes leaving the deck_

**RSL EVENTS SCHEDULE JUNE 2017**

_Night Moves Club Raffle every Monday at 5:30pm_

_Phillies Sports & Grill Raffle every Saturday at 6:00pm_

**MEDICAL MISSION**

_Saturday 3rd June_

_Covered area, Quizon New Valley Sub Division_

See map in newsletter

_Tuesday 6th June_

_2:00pm COMMITTEE MEETING_

_2:00pm social Tuesday at Ponderosa_

_4:00pm MOONS BAR – KICK BACK & RELAX – AUSSIE SHACK_

_Tuesday 13th June_

_2:00pm WELFARE MEETING_

_2:00pm social Tuesday at Ponderosa_

_4:00pm PORKIES – ROUTE 54 – MISCHIEF BAR_

_Tuesday 20th June_

_2:00pm GENERAL MEETING (Door closes at 2:00pm)_

_2:00pm social Tuesday at Ponderosa_

_4:00pm VOODOO – VALHALLA – ANGEL WITCH_

_Tuesday 27th June_

_2:00pm social Tuesday at Ponderosa_

_4:00pm PONDEROSA RESORT_

_(Free nibbles, thanks Melvin & Toney)_

Check our web site [www.rslangelescity.com](http://www.rslangelescity.com) or Facebook or Email [secretary@rslangelescity.com](mailto:secretary@rslangelescity.com) cell: +63 928 742 4628

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**Our thanks to the BLUE BOOK for inserting our events in their publications**
I do not think that we need to give any written directions to this medical mission. And there is probably no need to be at the ponderosa Hotel at 0730 hours to catch their jeepnie to the site either.

Good turn-up requested.

Left: Sub Branch President Bob Barnes presenting John Wallace with certificates of appreciation, one is for Colin Carrington who could not attend. Readers will remember John and Colin, also known as the woodmen who have donated well over $6,500 for our children’s medical missions. The woodmen live in Heathcote, Victoria and are here in the Philippines to thaw out. John is our latest member, we are proud to welcome him to our Sub Branch.

(RSL meeting room: Tues 16th May)
Northfield 15 Integrated School Medical Mission 6th May 2017

SUMMARY
A quiet start to the mission but the traffic flow was constant. We attended to:-
- 736 children with medications
- 1 cleft lip operation to organize
- 1 tumour operation required
- 1 ear surgery &
- 2 eye operations to arrange.

Above: Checked by the doctor and nurses, time to go home.

Left: Graham Crispin with some of the nurses.
Above: another cleft lip operation to be arranged

The de-worming medicine tastes extra yuk!!!

Above: Graham Crispin (right) with Jeff Collinson. A special thanks to Jeff for supplying the fresh cold water for the mission from his Aussie Aqua company. Jeff was also in the 2017 Fiesta and has booked for 2018. We appreciate your help and contribution.
A busy night at Phillies Sports Bar & Grill following the annual Invitation Golf Tournament which was held at the Clark Sun Valley Golf Club April 23rd – 26th. Jockeys Mick Dittman and Larry Olsen were in attendance at the raffles, Auction donations and the Calcutta. Mick donated 3 of his jockey race pants and Larry donated a saddle and whip he used from the time he won the Melbourne Cup till he retired. An NRL player donated 3 NRL jerseys signed by different players for the auction. The 50,000 peso winner of the Calcutta donated the prize to the RSL, Thunder MC Club and Rotary. Pictured right: President Bob Barnes with his crew accepting the cheque for 164,767:50 Php which is the amount donated from the raffle, auction and Calcutta. We give thanks the team at Phillies Sports Bar & Grill who are great supporters of our RSL.

Everyone knows our “Man of the Month”, Jun, the Ponderosa bus driver. He takes us to the medical missions, often helps at the mission then drives us to drink on the bar hops with a happy smile. We thank you for your service and look forward to many more trips with you.
NEW SPONSOR

On Wednesday 17th May Arthur Quinn and Peter Renton met with Mr Benjie Espiritu from the newly opened HMR Trading Haus in Camachilles, to discuss future sponsorship and support. HMR is an Australian owned business and they are keen to get involved with us. We have been presented a proposal document which I will hand to our Secretary and I am sure it will be gratefully accepted at our next committee meeting. It is effectively offering discounts on product purchases from their new store and donations of a wide range of goods for our raffles. HMR is also interested in supporting our medical missions and we have invited him to attend our next event in Balibago so he can see how best he can support, I also invited him to come along to our next General Mission and give a short presentation as a new sponsor and potentially a new member.
The Spain family was formally honoured in Darwin in 1962 when ‘Spain Place’ (off Cavenagh Street in the city) was named in memory of the Filipino patriarch Antonio Spain, an old Darwin identity who came to Thursday Island to be a diver, and then went to Darwin in 1894.

The Spain family

Dionisio Antonio Puerte (1863-1926) came from Cebu to Thursday Island in the 1870s to be a diver for pearlshell, trochus shell and bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber or trepang), and came to be known as Antonio Spain (the Philippines at that time being a colony of Spain).

On 12 May 1885 Antonio married Elizabeth Massey (1866-1951) from London. They initially raised four sons on Thursday Island – Anastasio (born 1886), Catalino (1887), Hignio (1891) and Felix (1893). Antonio and Elizabeth went on to have a total of eleven sons and one daughter (although five of the sons died in infancy), all carrying their father's original surname ‘Puerte’ as a middle name.

In 1894, Antonio and Elizabeth moved to Palmerston (Darwin). Antonio continued as a pearl diver, and in his later life was a popular barber in Cavanagh Street. In 1900, Elizabeth secured a contract to provide stone for the new Christ Church. Antonio and his first four sons worked in quarrying, cutting and carting the stone: the foundation stone was laid in July 1902 and the church was consecrated later that year. While all of Darwin’s Filipino families were Roman Catholic, uniquely the Spains were Church of England through Elizabeth’s influence. Antonio himself was baptised at Christ Church on 2 June 1906. Two of their sons served in the AIF during World War 1.

Felix Beato Puerte Spain (1893-1966)

Felix, their fourth son, was born on Thursday Island on 21 February 1893. After serving in the Darwin Cable Guard, Felix enlisted in the AIF on 8 November 1915, aged 21. After a patchy year he embarked from Brisbane on 24 January 1917 on A33 HMAT Ayrshire. He joined the 52nd Battalion AIF on the Ypres Salient in October, but was evacuated to England with gastritis. While there, he met Miss Edith Edetta Edmonds of Spring Hill, Birmingham and married her on 9 March 1918.

Felix rejoined his battalion in France in April 1918 and transferred to the 49th Battalion AIF. In August 1918, the battalion moved into the frontline trenches of the Bouzencourt Line on the Somme. On 10 August near the village of Etineham Felix Spain received gunshot wounds to the shoulder. After recuperating, he embarked on the Zeelandic on 27 March 1920 with his wife and young daughter Queenie Eddetta Spain.

Felix was discharged on 30 June 1920. Felix and Edith lived in Darwin and ultimately had six children (one of whom served in WW2). He managed the hairdressing saloon in Cavanagh Street which his father had earlier established, while Edith managed a café. The family was evacuated to Glebe, NSW after the first Japanese attacks on Darwin on 19 February 1942. Felix Spain died in Darwin on 17 December 1966, aged 74.

Prudencio Vidal Puerte Spain (1897-1919)

Prudencio (‘Percy’) Spain was born in Palmerston on 28 April 1897, Antonio and Elizabeth’s eighth child. He was an apprentice fitter with the Public Works Department when he volunteered for the AIF. He attended a recruiting meeting at Darwin Town Hall on 20 September 1915 with fellow Filipinos Ricardo Conanan, and Matthew and Palencio Garr, and volunteered immediately. He was 18½ years old and, with parental consent, was sworn-in on 6 October 1915. He joined the Fourth Northern Territory Contingent of volunteers, and in Brisbane was allocated to ‘D’ Company, 7th Depot Battalion for training. Prudencio did not settle well into camp life and was discharged in Enoggera on 11 May 1916.

Catalino Puerte Spain (1887-1942)

Earlier this year, on 19 February, the Northern Territory marked the 75th anniversary of the first Japanese bombing raids on Darwin. Antonio and Elizabeth’s second son Catalino Puerte Spain (1887-1942) was one of the civilians killed during the air raid on Darwin on 19 February 1942, while working on the MV Neptuna. Catalino had married Tolentino Conanan’s daughter Gertrude Maria Da Souza Conanan on 9 February 1909. Catalino and Gertrude Spain lived in McMinn Street in Darwin and had two children: Christina Liboria Spain (1908-1973) and Daniel Cathalino Spain (1914-2010), who served in WW2.

WW2 Volunteers

Three Filipino-Australian descendants of Antonio and Elizabeth Spain volunteered for uniformed service during World War 2. One grandson (the son of Anastasio Spain) served from 1942 to 1944 as Q268434 Private Ernest Herbert Spain (1913-1996), 18th Line of Communication Signals, Australian Military Forces.

Another grandson (the son of Catalino Spain) was 135069 Leading Aircraftman Daniel Cathelino Spain (1914-2010) who served in the RAAF from 1943 to 1946. A third grandson (the son of Felix Spain) served in the Second AIF from 1940 to 1945 as DX605 Private Felix Richard William Spain (1923-2001), 2/101st General Transport Company, AASC.

Family connections

Antonio Spain died of bowel cancer in Darwin on 21 July 1926, aged 64, after having lived in Australia for about 50 years. He was buried in the old Palmerston Cemetery on Goyder Road – Darwin’s ‘Pioneer Cemetery’.

One of Antonio and Elizabeth’s great-grandsons served in the RAN as R63987 Laurence Charles Jones, an Ordinary Seaman Communications Operator during the Indonesian Confrontation, on Far East Strategic Reserve duties patrolling the Straits of Malacca and the Straits of Singapore, and then saw further operational service as a Radio Operator Special in South Vietnamese waters.

Another great-grandson was 18195 Private Arthur Wallace Butler (1944-2008) who served with the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR) at Terendak in Malaya, on the Malay-Thai border, and in Sarawak, Malaysia in 1965 during Confrontation, and then with 7RAR in South Vietnam in 1967-68.

We honour the service and sacrifice of Australia’s Filipino community in the two World Wars, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and the campaigns in Malaya, Borneo and Malaysia, as well as the contribution of the survivors to the Australian community.

Paul A Rosenzweig

ThanksDigger@gmail.com

More info at: https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger

Thanks Digger  The ‘Thanks Digger’ Facebook page has been established as a tribute to all Australian Service personnel and others who have served in the defence of Australia and Australia’s interests.

https://www.facebook.com/Thanks.Digger | ThanksDigger@gmail.com

Captions

Image 1: ‘Spain Place’ in Darwin city was named in 1962 in memory of the Filipino patriarch Antonio Spain. The name also honours two sons who were volunteers in WW1, a son killed during the Bombing of Darwin in 1942, and Filipino-Australian descendants who served in uniform during WW2, Confrontation and the Vietnam War.

Image 2: A feature article in the Sunday Territorian published on 19 February honoured the Filipino-Australians killed in the first Japanese bombing raids on Darwin, including Antonio and Elizabeth's son Catalino Puerte Spain (1887-1942), pictured bottom right.

Image 3: Antonio and Elizabeth Spain's grandsons and great-grandsons who served in uniform from WW2 to the Vietnam War – Felix Spain (junior), Ernie Spain and Dan Spain (all WW2), Dick Spain BEM (South Vietnam), Laurie Jones (Confrontation and Vietnam) and Arthur Butler (Confrontation and the Vietnam War).
AN INTERESTING TRAVELOGUE (by editor Larry Smith)

PREAMBLE

I have just recently returned from a trip which started in Hervey Bay Queensland, three hours by road to Brisbane International airport, a 14+ hour flight to Dubai, two days in Dubai, a 6.5 hour flight Dubai to Venice Italy, an overnight stay there, then a 700+ kilometre road trip through Italy, Slovinia, Croatia to Serbia.

A return by the same route was completed 17 days later.

You may well ask why we went to Bosnia. Our good friends in Hervey Bay wanted to do a pilgrimage to Medugorje in Bosnia. There are three locations that Catholics are willing to travel to for a pilgrimage, Lourdes in France, Fatima in Portugal and Medugorje in Bosnia. Two years ago our friends did Lourdes and wished to do Medugorje this year.

I am not a catholic but a non-practicing Christian, so I went along with our friends and my wife and son who are Catholics.

ON THE MOVE

Our trip started on March 28th with a three hour road trip to Brisbane where we joined an Emirates A380-800 flight to Dubai, (a part of a seven emirate group on the point of Saudia Arabia, at the start of the Persian Gulf, near the Strait of Hormuz), the trip taking 14 hours 20 minutes non-stop.

<<Emirates Airlines A380-800 aircraft. 97 in the fleet

I had never been to this area before and was looking forward to seeing the difference in architecture and customs etc. Our friends have done the trip on other occasions and found a couple of days break in Dubai was a good battery charger.

On arrival I was not at all surprised to find that Terminal 3 was a huge place. With very little fuss, we were ushered through the arrivals system and, after changing some money, caught a taxi big enough for the six of us with baggage to our hotel, which I found out was not actually in the Dubai emirate, but next door in SHARJAH.

Our hotel, Nova Park, just off King Faisal Road Sharjah, was not a four star place but adequate, clean and close to local shops and large shopping centres, mostly occupied by Russian tourists.

After two days and two nights, the hotel bus dropped us back at Dubai airport where we boarded a Boeing 777-200 aircraft for the 6+hour flight to Venice. Emirates have 164 Boeing 777 type of aircraft, an impressive number.
It was an interesting flight, firstly over the Persian Gulf, until we were just past Bahrain when we took a 10 degree right turn to fly over Iran, hence dodging flying over Iraq, then across the eastern part of Turkey, then a straight run up to Venice.

An hour into the flight we were tossed all over the place by turbulence but then after all was smooth. I took some window pictures of snow-capped mountains in both Iran and Turkey and later in Croatia.

A lengthy, but uncomplicated arrival in Venice saw us grabbing a nine seated van for the short trip to our hotel in Camplato. Our friend complained to immigration about the lack of officers to process the non EU passengers. All he received was a shrug of the shoulders.

VENICE TO BOSNIA

We had arranged hotel accommodation not too far from Venice Airport, the Marco Polo Hotel in Campalto. It was just an overnight stop. The next morning a friend of our travelling mate had hired an eight seater van in his home town of Bergamo, just north of Milan, and drove two hours to our hotel, arriving at 0615hrs. A few hello’s, a coffee, load the vehicle and off we went.

We joined a major motorway for the 150km trip to Trieste, Italy where we entered Slovinia. Slovinia, Croatia and Bosnia were part of the former Yugoslavia which was a communist country under the dictator Tito, until his death. After that the separate countries of Serbia, Slovinia, Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro started warring. (We all remember the shocking news from this region)

The countryside from Venice to Trieste was a mixture of rural, village and industrial. Plenty of vineyards and maize fields.

SLOVINIA

Our entry to Slovinia was via a checkpoint where our passports had to be produced. The checkpoint was manned by big unsmiling brutes still with an apparent communist attitude. A kilometre further on we went to an administrative centre to purchase a paid toll sticker which would serve us for the 20 something kilometres of roads we would need to traverse to get to Croatia. This pass was good for seven days, well within our needs. Interestingly, the attendant issuing the sticker could not speak a word of Italian, even though we were only less than a kilometre from the Italian border.

Attaching the sticker to the windscreen we exited the admin area and proceeded through a slow area where we noticed an official vehicle with light on top facing us. Soon after it was behind us, then going past us, then in front where they turned on a flashing sign ‘follow us, toll check’. We followed them into a service area and
parked beside them. The two occupants got out of the vehicle, the female passenger immediately went to look at our sticker and the driver opened the side of the vehicle revealing an office set up with wifi, computer, EFPOS terminal, printer etc.

The interrogation began. Driver ID, vehicle papers. Apparently we had purchased the wrong sticker, should have got the next one. OK mistake, we will pay for the correct one. No No No, a fine of 180 Euros and a new sticker. Pay now or go to court. That will mean an arrest and jail until Monday (today was Saturday). No alternative. The printer burst into action, sheets of paper was produced for signature and a VISA card payment was done. Legal theft was what we termed it.

20 km later we were out of the place and on a magnificent motorway into Croatia. We were not in Slovinia long enough to find out what the local currency was.

CROATIA

Croatia is a country of contrasts. The motorway we joined from Slovinia is some 500 kilometres long, and follows just inside the Adriatic coast line. The country is not a rich place but the motorway is very impressive. Two lanes either side with wide separation. They do not go around or over mountains/hills, they go through them. I counted 46 tunnels on the 500km we were on, some just a couple of hundred metres long, some more that 2-3 km long. All were named, obviously for safety reasons.

The speed limit for most of the distance is 130kph but rarely does anyone travel at that speed. Or driver got up to 170kph at times, but maintained 130-140 for most of the distance. At one stop-off we had for fuel and food I could hear vehicles coming along the road, I could say “here they (then turn my head quickly to the right) go”. I reckon some cars were almost on the redline on their tacho’s and probably touching 200kph.
Above. A food stop halfway down Croatia. Our van and friends about to remount up.

The countryside started off with forested areas and almost flat farmlands but about halfway down turned into a rocky landscape. Not a piece of usable land to be seen. Occasionally you would spot a house or a group of houses in the middle of nowhere in amongst the rocks. I could see nothing that supported them, no farm, nothing, but they were there. Foliage was small scrubby plants which somehow managed to grow in a crack in rocks in a teaspoon of dirt, or it appeared that way.
For most of this distance, an underground gas pipeline from Russia followed the motorway. Every hundred metres or so was a two inch steel pipe about two metres high, with a yellow ‘coolie hat’ on top. Must have been a pressure release or something. Every tenth one has a number on a larger ‘coolie hat’. Then we went into an area littered with wind generators. You do not appreciate their size until you get close to them. Massive. Passed close by a snow capped mountain.

Eventually we came to the end of the motorway for us as we turned into Bosnia. Again nice smiling faces (not) at passport control exiting Croatia, (we never had to leave the vehicle at any time at these stations), paid the toll of 50 Euros, and motored about one km to another passport control into Bosnia. Soon we came to another toll booth, this time Bosnian. That cost us 5 Euro and was definitely the end of the motorway. 5 Euro for one Km was a bit steep. The local currency is Kun but credit/debit cards and of course € (Euro) is accepted.

Above. Halfway through one of the 46 tunnels. Note the SOS sign indicating an emergency phone.

***Next month I will cover Medugorje in Bosnia and our trip back to Venice.
THE LAST SEGMENT IN THE SERIES THE BATTLE OF CORAL/BALMORAL

The North Vietnamese Regular Army 1960 to 1975

All Australian soldiers who were on their way to the war in the (then) Republic of South Vietnam, were issued with a small Australian Military Forces pamphlet entitled ‘Pocketbook - South Vietnam’.

It contained 10 Chapters on subjects ranging from the War in South Vietnam through History, Geography, Government, People, Armed Services, The Viet Cong (the enemy), Language hints, general information and ended with some reminders on the need for security with the stern words ‘Constant Vigilance - Eternal Suspicion’. All contained in 74 pages. A neat little book.

Chapter 7 was the one on the Viet Cong (aka ‘Charlie’ or ‘VC’). It describes the various iterations of the VC from village guerrilla to main force full-time soldier. But there was not one word on what to expect from a North Vietnamese regular soldier (NVA). Nothing on how he was dressed, what he might look like, and most importantly, how professional he was in the art of soldiering. Australian soldiers learned those things, the hard way.

The first thing that you noticed about an NVA regular soldier was that he was dressed in a uniform of jungle green shirt and trousers and wore a green pith helmet with a red star on the front of it. His speciality or unit designator was a patch sewn into the lapels of his shirt.

He had ammunition pouches and utility belt, a variety of specialist equipment harnesses, a well-made and maintained weapon such as the AK47 Assault Rifle (aka Kalashnikov) or the Rocket Propelled Grenade Launcher (RPG) - either the small RPG2 or the much larger hard-hitting RPG7.

His footwear was mainly a discarded truck tyre fashioned into a thong-like shoe nicknamed ‘Ho Chi Minh Sandals’. Some of the NVA also wore military styled boots.

Studded among the NVA were very influential folk who were Political Commissars. Politics and the military were fused into one for many NVA and VC objectives. Some of these guys were not Army Officers but understood the workings of the NVA and their job was to keep military objectives in line with the intended political end-game.

The NVA were organised into Army Groups containing several Divisions. The Divisions were allocated Areas of Operations together with missions and objectives.

An NVA Division contained three Regiments of infantry plus a number of Infiltration Groups and Intelligence gathering entities. Each NVA Regiment contained three battalions of infantry, plus artillery batteries, anti-aircraft batteries, engineers, logistics and civil affairs units.

A Regiment contained between 2,000 to 3,000 personnel, depending upon their mission. A Division could contain as many as 10,000 to 12,000 personnel.
Their orders were simple. There were eight tactical principles that all NVA units were to follow. I will spare you reading through all of them, but here is a classic example of a couple of these principles that Australians learned, the hard way:

**Number 2.** Aggressively annihilate the enemy.

**Number 4.** Concentrate a superior force to totally annihilate every enemy element.

**Numbers 7 and 8.** Fight continuously, with aggression, using initiative, mobility, cleverness, flexibility and develop the capacity for close combat and night fighting. (Quoted from the English translation of the book 'Victory in Vietnam' General Hoang Van Thai and General Tran Van Quang. p458).

Every one of these principles was exploited at the Battle of FSPB Coral Balmoral between 12 May and 6 June 1968. The NVA soldier was a dedicated, courageous, well-trained and very highly motivated man. He followed orders to the maximum of his ability.

An example of this was the battle on 16 May 1968 when 141 NVA Regiment attacked with its three battalions of infantry, eight Infiltration Groups, its artillery batteries and engineers (note: the NVA called some of their specialist engineers 'Sappers').

They kept coming at us even when huge shells from eight inch guns, 175mm guns, 155mm guns and a torrent of 81mm mortars crashed down into their charging ranks. There is evidence to suggest that some NVA platoons may have been virtually vapourised by the extreme energy and heat generated by an enormous shell exploding in a grouping of tightly packed human-wave assaulters.

But they were not phased by this. They just kept coming at us despite the destruction and carnage. They charged straight at us and into our machine gun and rifle fire, screaming, yelling, blowing whistles and bugles without the slightest hesitation. They had an absolute faith in their mission and they were committed to see it through to the end.

They crept into position at night so that they could get right up on our forward defence lines without detection and also to minimise the effects of our massive aerial superiority over them. Then on a signal, they launched their human-wave assault with a roar of defiance and determination.

When daylight arrived, they had no choice but to withdraw into their safe havens and sanctuaries. They made sure that very few of their dead brothers were left behind. This was the same tactic used during the French Indo-China War in the 1950s to defeat our Intelligence on the 'body count' and to show respect for their own war dead by removing them from the hands of their enemies.

That the NVA did not prevail over us at the battle of FSPB Coral Balmoral was down to the combination of our diggers taking the attitude of NO Surrender - NO Retreat and the massive firepower and aerial superiority we had over them. The NVA were determined to kill every one of us - and that's exactly what they would have had to have done to win the day.

In the end, they were unable to do that despite the fact that they came very close to achieving their mission of a break-in on the Australians during the 16 May 1968 assaults.

The NVA regular soldier was as tough, determined and courageous as any soldier that ever went to war. We Australians remember him with awe and respect. The families of the NVA soldiers lost to this war, mourn the loss of their loved ones and celebrate them as heroes. Because that’s what they were. The 7th NVA Division was one of the most battle-hardened outfits in the war and their veterans deserve to hold their heads high to this day.
Left & bottom right.
No, not a war zone, it’s what’s left of the Ponderosa Garden area. The new owner Tony Donson is working around the clock and transforming the area to a high class oasis with a pool bar and in time, a new kitchen plus more hotel rooms. Work on the existing rooms is well in hand turning it into a quality but affordable resort. Our RSL members will be well taken care of by Tony and his friendly staff. We are looking forward for the end result and enjoying a glass (or 2) of SMB in the new surroundings.

Right and bottom left.
An artist’s impression of the new facility showing the proposed covered bar area and the pool seating. Along with the new look and bar comes a name change and new logo. (Logo yet to be designed). Let’s say goodbye to the old Ponderosa and enjoy the new lease of life provided by Tony in this tropical paradise.

Welcome to the
Hotel TenSon
Formally the Ponderosa Resort
Clubhouse: Ponderosa Hotel
1734 San Pablo St.,
Mt.View Balibago, Angeles City 2009, Philippines

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Do not forget, if dialing ‘in-country’ add in a 0 before the number

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance”
Lest We Forget
Call to order: at 1410 hrs.

The doorman placed the “do not enter” sign on the door.
The President asked the members to turn off all phones recorders etc.

The secretary confirmed we have a quorum.

Ode to the fallen: Recited by President Bob Barnes

Attendance 16 (as registered):- 
12 Service Members, 4 Affiliate.

Apologies: Vice President Chris Weeks

New members/transfers: None present

Visitors: None present

President’s address:-
The President thanked the members that helped out on ANZAC Day and a special thanks to Graham Crispin for looking after the merchandising at the Swagman Resort.
He then thanked Ron Parrott for becoming the treasurer as Kooka has resigned. We now have only one position to fill: merchandising officer/quartermaster. We are still looking for volunteers to help at the Monday Night Moves raffles.

Minutes of meeting held 18th April 2017

Motion: The minutes of the general meeting held 18th April 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record

MOVED Philip Salmon SECONDED Steve Innes Carried

Matters arising from minutes:-
Nothing raised

Inward Correspondence: -

Philippine Society of Wheelchairs Professionals
Re: invite to attend a seminar presented to the members at the next general meeting
Matters arising from correspondence:-
The members were advised that Chris Weeks has been running the wheelchair program for 3 years along with his Vice President commitments is looking for a replacement to attend to the special wheelchairs. Peter Renton has more info on this and was asked to speak at general business.

Treasurer’s report:-
Copies of the report were handed to the members prior to the commencement of the meeting. Ron gave a very detailed report and compared his report to that of the previous treasurer

Motion: The treasurer’s report for April 2017 be accepted as read and tabled.
(Note: copy with original minutes)
MOVED Ron Parrott SECONDED Ray Sauvola Carried

Matters arising from treasurer’s report:-
Gary McGufficke asked if we have considered getting a new auditor and/or an independent audit. Ron tabled the audit report for 2016 dated April 17th 2017. Several members made comments regarding a suggestion that we obtain a new audit report as Ron has taken over since the last audit resulting in the following motion:-

Motion: “That the treasurer direct the Auditor to complete an audit of the books to cover the period from the end of the last audit (31 Dec 2016) until the end of May 2017, and that that audit be completed in time to be presented to the next General Meeting on Tues 20th June 2017.
MOVED Ron Parrott SECONDED Ray Sauvola Carried

Ron explained the procedure for the new signatories at China Bank and the Secretaries report needs to be notarized. It’s difficult to get the 4 members to an attorney

Medical Missions report:-
Davis Shine advised that the last medical mission held at Northfield 15 737 children attended. The next mission will be held Saturday 3rd June at the covered basketball court at Quezon New Valley Sub Division. Mud maps were available and will also be in the next newsletter.

Membership report: David Shine advised we have 375 financial members. (Note: the cut off for renewal was April 30th, several members are overseas and are expected to renew when they return.

General Business:-
Greg Mann explained that we have 30 hearing aids in stock, 2 reserved for the secretary. 16 children waiting for mold, we are running out of h/aids. We have issued 475 since the program started but the program could close if we can’t get more aids. Gary Barnes stated we must get more h/aids. In short, the secretary will write to each RSL branch and ask that a letter requesting help in obtaining aids be sent to each sub branch. Greg has seen an advert on the notice board, behind the ear aids for 2,500 Php. Greg will get info and report at the next meeting.

BEING NO MORE BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1506 HRS