“We are working at Improving lives within our community”

‘Lest We Forget’

Mabuhay from the ANGELES CITY RSL PHILIPPINES

Happy 100th Birthday to the RAF

WEBSITE: WWW.RSLANGELESCITY.COM  FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/RSLACITY

RSL
Angeles City Sub Branch Philippines

NEWSLETTER # 132
MARCH 2018
President’s Report
By: Gary Barnes – Sub-Branch Vice President

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

As you can see, I have been moved to page two of the newsletter as the pom’s wish to celebrate 100 years of the Royal Air Force and have claimed page one for the historic event. VP Chris Week’s was a boy entrant in the UK and is busy writing an article for the newsletter detailing the history of the RAF which I am looking forward to reading as will other boy entrants that served with Chris.

I’m writing this report as President Bob Barnes is still in Australia and is not sure when he will return. As such, I represented our Sub Branch along with VP Chris and the Secretary at the 81st Anniversary of the Philippine Artillery affectionally known as “The Cannoneers” which was conducted at the monument behind the new Petron gas station in Clark. It was a memorable day and I was able to catch up with some long term friends who are serving with the Philippine military.

It is pleasing to report that President Albert Clifford from Subic Bay RSL was also able attend.

On the subject of Anniversaries, we are about to commemorate the 103rd landing at Gallipoli at the Hall of Flags at Clark Veterans Cemetery. Preparations are well in hand and I am now preparing the program and running sheet. Please see the flyer in the newsletter for details, timing etc. This will be the first ANZAC Day that the traditional “Gunfire Breakfast” will be held at the Hotel Fenson as the Swagman is no longer operating. For those who do not attend the monthly meetings, it will also be an opportunity to purchase RSL merchandise including the newly arrived RSL coffee mugs. Hurry, only 100 were ordered and are now selling fast, see the item in the newsletter for more details. Naturally, we make a small profit on the mugs, it all helps with supporting the children’s medical missions.

As you are well aware, we finance the missions with proceeds from raffles and kind donations, especially from the Hong Kong Fat Boys. Recently, we have noticed a sharp decline in raffle sales which is a cause for concern. As President Bob has often said, you don’t have to be a committee member to help and with thanks to Graham Crispin, the Saturday evening raffles have resumed at Phillies Sports Bar and Grill. Well done Graham, we appreciate your efforts. Again, President Bob has often said, we can achieve a lot when we work as a team. If you are in town and if at all possible, drop in to Phillies on a Saturday night to show our support for their valued assistance.

My final item for this report is the AGM, which will be held Tuesday April 17th at 2:00pm sharp. All positions will be declared vacant with the exception of the Secretary and one Committee Member. Nominations close at 5pm, 6th April so if you wish to be actively involved, get a nomination form from the notice board at the Hotel Fenson or from the Secretary. Sadly, I must advise you that Ron, our much valued Treasurer, will not accept a nomination this year. Ron has done a magnificent job as Treasurer and he will be sorely missed. The Treasurers role is an important one, a hands on position and a vital part of the Committee. Ron is prepared to assist the new Treasurer in the takeover period so don’t be afraid to volunteer, Ron will make it easy for you. Once again Ron, we thank you for your service, above and beyond the call of duty.

On behalf of the Committee, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable and restful Easter.

Best Regards to all,
Gary Barnes

NB. We have just been advised of the sudden death of our fellow Australian and President of Subic RSL Sub Branch, Albert Clifford.

More on Albert can be read on page 8 of this newsletter.

RIP Albert

GB
On behalf of the Angeles City RSL Sub Branch, President Bob Barnes invites you all to commemorate the 103rd landing at Gallipoli. A service has been arranged at the Clark Veterans Cemetery to be held at 0700 hrs. (Please muster at 0645 hrs.)

Followed by “Gunfire Breakfast”

At the Hotel Fenson at 8:30am

Plus raffles & “Two-up” in the afternoon

Admission: 400Php Single or 700Php Couple

Unlimited local drinks until 4:00pm. Gunfire Breakfast & Sausage Sizzle (courtesy of the Hotel Fenson) and Scott Chambers Prime Choice Meats

All other drinks and food at your own account

Plus LUCKY DOOR PRIZE & RAFFLE drawn at noon
RSL EVENTS SCHEDULE APRIL 2018
Night Moves Club...........15 draws
Raffle every Monday, drawn at 6:00pm. Great Prizes

Phillies Sports & Grill Raffle
Special Nights to be advertised

**Tuesday 3rd April 2018**
2 pm COMMITTEE MEETING
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Blue Flame – Drill Shack – Night Moves

**Saturday 7th April 2018**
8:00am
MEDICAL MISSION
Basket Ball Court
Teodoro Street

**Tuesday 10th April 2018**
2 pm WELFARE MEETING
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Candy Bar – Touch of Class – JD Sports

**Tuesday 17th April 2018**
2 pm GENERAL MEETING
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Moons Bar – Robbie Burns Bar – Aussie Shack

**Tuesday 24th April 2018**
2 pm NO MEETING
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Hotel Fenson
Happy Birthday to VP Chris Weeks. (40 again)

**WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL**

**ANZAC DAY**
0700 hrs. Service at Clark Veterans Cemetery
Gunfire Breakfast at The Hotel Fenson from 8:30am

Check our web site www.rslangelescity.com
secretary@rslangelescity.com
or philsalmon@y7mail.com

As usual, we thank the Blue-Book for advertising our events
At the medical mission held 3rd February, the nurses from Deakin University attended and helped, which is what they do every year. Before they returned to Australia, they handed us 50 sets of children’s underwear which, as shown above, we donated to the Duyan ni Maria Children’s home. At the time of writing, the establishment is home to 31 orphaned, abandoned, neglected and/or impoverished children. *All contributions, large or small are appreciated*

ABOVE: Philip Salmon and Chris Weeks are being offered rice cakes by the founder of Duyan ni Maria children’s Home, Sister Ma. Allessandrina M Casas. The good sister is only 87 years young and is very actively involved, an inspiration to everyone that meets her. If it’s possible, we would like to take the Deakin Nurses to the children’s home when they visit us in 2019, I’m sure they would enjoy meeting the staff and the children.

Below (left to right): Elsa Weeks, Vice President Chris Weeks, Elizabeth Lukingan, Merlinda Gama, Secretary Philip Salmon & Christine Salmon
We are pleased to announce that the Saturday evening raffles at Phillies Sport Grill will start again this Saturday, 24th March. Come to Phillies, have a cold beer, buy a meal, watch the rugby and have a great time. See you Saturday from 5:00pm, cheers.

All monies raised at the Saturday evening raffles help the RSL to continue our children medical missions, wheelchair program and the hearing aid program. Please come and support us.
RSL Supporters of the Month

Keith Payne VC

(Pictured left) A man that needs no introduction. We all know that Keith is an Australian legend and a war hero who saved 40 wounded/stranded soldiers while he was also wounded. Keith returned to Australia after attending the 2017 Vietnam Veterans Day service and also a medical mission at Balibago. Along with David Caracciolo, he is raising funds for us to buy a new truck and was interviewed by a television station which has helped put our Sub Branch on the map. We look forward to Keith’s return to the Philippines along with his lovely lady, Florence. Hopefully, we will have a new truck when the next visit.

George Christensen MP

(Pictured right) George is a personal friend of Keith Payne and David Caracciolo. He attended a wheelchair assembly team session when he was in Angeles and was very impressed with the works our Sub Branch is involved in. The RSL is a non-political organization but we feel very happy that a federal member supports our quest. As we are many miles from Australia, there is no political gain for George, he supports us because it’s the right thing to do. Thanks George, we appreciate your help.

David Caracciolo

(Pictured left) David is a regular visitor to our Sub Branch taking breaks from his busy position as CEO of Mackay Reef Fish Supplies. He is actively involved with the fund raising for a truck as he realizes how important it is for us to have better transport to take the medicines to the medical missions. Although the funds to date are ½ of what is required, more donations are greatly appreciated. For further information, please contact David as follows:-

Cell phone: 61 408 773 684
Email: david@mackayreeffish.com
Web: www.mackayreeffish.com
LATE NOTIFICATION OF DEATH

It is with sadness that we advise the sudden untimely passing of Albert Clifford, the President of Subic RSL Sub Branch.

Sources relate that Albert was preparing to return to Sydney where he was to undergo surgery.

Albert served in the Australian Army, Royal Australian Engineers corps as a plant operator. After service he joined the New South Wales (NSW) fire services and rose to commander rank.

Albert had his own little bar in Barrio Barretto called the Rabbit Warren. Once you stepped through the door and saw all his paraphernalia concerning his beloved Sth Sydney Rabbito’s team you realise why he called the bar ‘Rabbit Warren’.

Albert dressed as Santa at each RSL organized Christmas party for the local Barrio Barretto kids and loved handing out presents. He was widely known as Santa Claus.

Due to Albert’s sudden demise and the time frame to issue this newsletter, further details will have to be included later. His funeral details are unknown at this stage. **RIP Albert Clifford**
Part 3 : Active service, phase 1 – 3051 Private William Gar

This year the former allied nations will mark the centenary of Armistice Day when the guns fell silent on the Western Front. Among the 13 million dead were two sons of a Filipino-Australian family from Darwin, whose service and sacrifice could be seen to be in the tradition of the martyr and Filipino national hero Dr José Rizal.

Patriotic Enlistment

Widely regarded as the greatest national hero of the Philippines, Dr José Rizal authored two books and a number of essays and poems. The content of his writings changed considerably from his first novel Noli Me Tángere (‘Touch me Not’, 1887) to his second El Filibusterismo (The Reign of Greed’, 1891).

Disregarding the socio-political themes in Rizal’s writings, his first book Noli Me Tángere is noted as primarily having a hopeful and romantic atmosphere.

This same uplifting atmosphere surrounded the brothers William, Martien Mateo, Paulincho Nulinimko and Guillermo in the first phase of their war experience – a feeling of heady excitement, laden with looming expectation – the enthusiastic and patriotic enlistment, the ceremonious farewells, and the cheering adventure of collective embarkation in a crowded troopship.

William Ga (1891-1916)

William Ga was the first Filipino from Darwin to apply for the Australian Imperial Force. He had been born on Thursday Island on 26 November 1891, and later in Darwin worked a labourer with the Public Works Department.

He was an early volunteer in 1915, a member of the famous ‘First Northern Territory Contingent’ commanded by Captain Robert Lewis which departed on the SS Chang Sha on 26 April 1915. This ‘Chang Sha’ contingent was the one which was famously marched out of town by a brass band, with the Australian flag carried at the head of the procession and the Japanese Rising Sun ensign at the rear, indicative of the Top End’s appreciation of the Japanese naval screen across northern Australia at that time.

William actually departed with a later contingent though – the Fifth Northern Territory Contingent. This group of sixteen men was farewelled with patriotic speeches and rousing cheers at Darwin Town Hall on 16 August 1915. Mr Walter Bell, the instigator of the farewell function, said that he was “proud to see the men answering so well”, and the meeting closed with three cheers for the Territorians who were leaving for the front.

William’s older brother was the next to volunteer, on 18 September (giving his name as ‘Matthew Garr’), together with their younger brother Paulincho (under the name ‘Palencio Gar’). And then on 23 November Guillermo Gah enlisted, giving his name as ‘Glamor Garr’.

3051 Private William Gar

William sailed to Brisbane on the SS Eastern, and was formally enlisted in Brisbane on 27 August, aged 23, giving his surname as ‘Gar’. After training, he embarked on the troopship A69 HMAT Warilda on 5 October 1915 with the 10th Reinforcements for the 9th Battalion AIF.

On arrival in Egypt, he entered the 3rd Training Battalion camp in Zeitoun. In February 1916, the size of the AIF was doubled to create battalions comprising a mix of Gallipoli veterans and reinforcements from Australia – so on 29 February William was allocated to the newly-created 49th Battalion AIF.

A fortnight later however, he was transferred to the 4th Pioneer Battalion AIF when it was raised at Tel-el-Kebir on 16 March. William marched with the battalion to Serapeum later that month to establish a camp, and spent the next few months training and working on defences.

Private William Gar joined a draft which entrained at Serapeum on 3 June for Alexandria, and there embarked on the Scotian for Marseilles. They arrived in port on 10 June 1916 and disembarked the following day, making their way through a series of camps to join the 4th Australian Division at the Front with the 1st ANZAC Corps.

Active service, phase 1

This first phase of William Gar’s war service mirrored the atmosphere portrayed in José Rizal’s first novel Noli Me Tángere – exciting, enthusiastic and uplifting, a purposeful march toward adventure.

As each of these Filipino-Australians left Darwin to join a depot battalion in Brisbane for training, they might have quietly recited the lines of Rizal from his final farewell, Mi Ultimo Adios, which he wrote on the eve of his execution: “Farewell, my adored Land, region of the sun caress’d, . . . our Eden lost’.

Then, as each of them completed their basic military training and musketry courses, perhaps they again whispered a final farewell as they climbed aboard their troopships, clad in khaki, “With gladness I give thee my Life, sad and repress’d” – expecting an adventure but prepared to sacrifice their life if necessary.

* * * * *

In the tradition of the martyr and Filipino national hero José Rizal – Non Omnis Moriar (‘I shall not wholly die’) – Carlos Ga and his sons are remembered today because their names appear on street signs, monuments and honour rolls throughout Australia and
overseas. Their mortal lives may have passed, but they have ‘not altogether died’.

Lest we Forget

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: This 1 Peso coin, bearing the effigy of Dr José Rizal, honours the centenary of the enlistment of William Ga from Darwin in the Australian Imperial Force.

Image 2: William Ga, the first Filipino-Australian from Darwin to volunteer for the AIF, was initially a member of the ‘First Northern Territory Contingent’ which departed on the SS Chang Sha on 26 April 1915 – although William actually departed with a later contingent.

Image 3: William Ga is remembered today because his name can be found on memorials such as the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra (panel 174).
Sergeant First Class Robert Howard: Refused Two Medals of Honor

He earned three nominations for a Medal of Honor but received only one. Not because he did not deserve all three, but because some of his actions occurred where officially the US Army was not supposed to be.

Robert Lewis “Bob” Howard was born on July 11, 1939, in Opelika, Alabama with a family reputation to maintain. His father and four uncles all served in WWII. Sadly, two died during the war, while his father and two others died of their wounds after it ended.

With little money, the family was forced to move back in with his mother’s parents. To help put food on the table, Howard and his sister picked cotton at a very young age. In July 1956 when he was 17, he dropped out of school and joined the US Army.

In Vietnam, Sergeant First Class Howard served with the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam–Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). It was a highly classified organization carrying out secret operations throughout Vietnam and the surrounding territories.

On November 16, 1967, the SOG attacked a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) cache. Howard had killed four soldiers when a machine gun nest opened fire on his team pinning them
down. He shot a sniper and then charged the nest, killing its occupants. Another machine gun then began shooting at them.


He grabbed a grenade, crawled up to the nest, and destroyed it at point blank range. More firing forced him to retreat enabling another NVA force to retake the machine gun. Grabbing a light anti-tank weapon, he stood as bullets whizzed past, and fired – taking out the second machine gun for good before his team was extracted by helicopter.

He had earned his first MoH recommendation. As the encounter had occurred in Laos and the US was a cosignatory of the 1962 “International Agreement on the Neutrality of Laos,” the operation never happened. Instead, the recommendation was downgraded to a Silver Star.

On November 15, 1968, he accompanied a Forward Operation Base (FOB) 2 Hatchet Platoon; again into Laos. Four days later, they were ambushed by NVA troops with a Soviet Pt-76 tank. Using his trusty anti-tank rocket, and braving intense fire he crept toward the tank and destroyed it.

American soldiers with an alleged Viet Cong captive near the Cambodian border.

When a medivac chopper came for them, it was shot down. While wounded, Howard ran through enemy fire to the helicopter, and lead the two surviving pilots and injured door gunner out. He then fought another 300 yards through NVA fire.
to get them all to safety. He sustained more injuries receiving 14 pieces of shrapnel, which really annoyed him.

Pissed off, he charged the NVA, killed two, and took one prisoner. A rescue of the men was attempted but was unsuccessful as the NVA kept them at bay with anti-aircraft guns. Next morning when another attempt was made Howard charged forward and silenced a 37-mm anti-aircraft gun allowing the extraction to go ahead.

A rescue of the men was attempted but was unsuccessful as the NVA kept them at bay with anti-aircraft guns. Next morning when another attempt was made Howard charged forward and silenced a 37-mm anti-aircraft gun allowing the extraction to go ahead.

Again, he was recommended for a MoH. Again, as the operation took place in Laos, he got a Distinguished Service Cross, instead.

On December 29, 1968, Private First Class Robert Francis Scherdin was the assistant team leader of a ten-man reconnaissance patrol. They were in Cambodia in the tri-border region of South Vietnam and Laos when they were attacked. Scherdin became separated from his team.

Howard was part of a 40-man rescue team that flew in the next day. They were fired upon even before they landed. One Huey was shot down, so the platoon leader ordered Howard to secure the landing zone. As he led his men up a hill, he and Lieutenant Jim Jerson were injured by a landmine. A bullet then detonated the latter’s ammunition belt. When Howard came to, it was to blindness and pain. After several minutes, his vision returned, but the pain in his hands was intense as shrapnel had shredded them.
Screams of dying men reached him – some were burning. It was an NVA soldier with a flame thrower. Howard tried to drag Jerson downhill, but it was not easy; he was 6-feet 4-inches tall and weighed about 200 pounds.

Two NVA companies were firing at them as Howard dragged Jerson to a log. NVA soldiers rushed them. One ran directly toward Howard, his bayonet raised but he tripped over Jerson. Howard was then shot in the foot.

The situation was grim. They were surrounded so Howard did the only thing he could.

He ordered the remaining 20 men to make a triangle with three strobe lights. Then he radioed base and ordered an airstrike on their position. For the next three and a half hours they held their ground until the strikes finally came. The explosions were so close some of his men were hit.

An emergency night extraction then rescued them. Despite his severe wounds Howard refused to board until everyone else had. Unfortunately, Scherdin was never found.

**Howard finally received his MoH on March 2, 1971.**
AM I AT FAULT ??

It takes only one drink to get me drunk. The trouble is, I can’t remember if it’s the thirteenth or the fourteenth ~ George Burns

I envy people who drink - at least they know what to blame everything on ~ Oscar Levant

I only take a drink on two occasions - when I’m thirsty and when I’m not ~ Brendan Behan

Alcohol may be man’s worst enemy, but the Bible says love your enemy! ~ Frank Sinatra

I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me ~ Winston Churchill

Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder ~ Kinky Friedman

Dear Alcohol, we had a deal, you were going to make me funnier, sexier, more intelligent and a better dancer. I saw the video, we need to talk ~ Anonymous

I used to think drinking was bad for me. So I gave up thinking. ~ Anonymous

I would date you, but my heart already belongs to Johnny Walker ~ Anonymous

Sometimes I drink water to surprise my liver ~ Anonymous

You look like I need another drink! ~ Anonymous

I say NO to alcohol, but it just doesn’t listen!! ~ Anonymous
The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Veterans’ Affairs
Minister for Defence Personnel
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC

MEDIA RELEASE

20 March 2018

VETERAN PENSIONS SET TO INCREASE

VETERAN pension payments will increase in March in line with the biannual indexation process.

Pension recipients including veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will receive increased payments from 20 March 2018.

Due to the calculation of pension rates on a daily basis, the first pension paid after the indexation on payday 29 March 2018 will comprise both the old and new rates.

The new pension rates will be fully effective from payment date 12 April 2018.

The table below highlights the new fortnightly rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVICE PENSION</th>
<th>Old rate (fortnightly)</th>
<th>New rate (fortnightly)</th>
<th>Increase (fortnightly)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single person</td>
<td>$894.40</td>
<td>$907.60</td>
<td>$13.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples (each)</td>
<td>$674.20</td>
<td>$684.10</td>
<td>$9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single person – transitional</td>
<td>$752.40</td>
<td>$762.00</td>
<td>$9.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples (each) – transitional</td>
<td>$607.00</td>
<td>$614.80</td>
<td>$7.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAR WIDOWS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War widow(er)’s pension</td>
<td>$909.10</td>
<td>$922.50</td>
<td>$13.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income support supplement (ceiling rate)</td>
<td>$268.50</td>
<td>$272.60</td>
<td>$4.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISABILITY PENSION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old rate (fortnightly)</td>
<td>$1,373.80</td>
<td>$1,394.20</td>
<td>$20.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCSS) can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for support and free and confidential counselling. Phone 1800 011 046 (international: 161 8 8241 4546). VVCSS is a service funded by Vietnam veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Old rate (fortnightly)</th>
<th>New rate (fortnightly)</th>
<th>Increase (fortnightly)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate rate</td>
<td>$932.70</td>
<td>$946.60</td>
<td>$13.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDA</td>
<td>$758.90</td>
<td>$770.20</td>
<td>$11.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 per cent</td>
<td>$488.40</td>
<td>$495.70</td>
<td>$7.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 per cent</td>
<td>$55.77</td>
<td>$56.50</td>
<td>$0.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September. For a full list of pension rates, please visit www.dva.gov.au or call 1800 555 254.

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Whill Prendergast: 02 6277 7820
DVA Media: 02 6289 6466
7th MARCH
Some of the wheelchair team

Two more happy families, thanks to the dedicated wheelchair team who happily give their time to help the less fortunate. The Sub Branch is proud of you all, thanks guys, you deserve a lot of credit.

Photos supplied by Steve Innes.
RIGHT: This is one of the happiest girls to receive a wheelchair and was seen trying to turn the wheels herself, a bit of independence for the first time. She is pictured in her completed chair with Graham Crispin, another regular of the team. Also pictured is Elsa Weeks who has a double role, apart from assisting with measuring the child, she also acts as the translator which is a great help.

LEFT: Peter Van Huisstede making sure the wheel is secure. Peter is a well-respected and regular member of the wheelchair team. Keep up the good work Peter, your input is changing lives for our local children and their families.

LEFT: A very busy morning for the wheelchair team. Two completed special chairs plus one regular adult chair. We do not normally issue adult chairs but special circumstances are taken into account and can be issued if warranted.
DISCLAIMER

The Angeles City Sub-Branch of the R&SLA, the Committee and the Editor take no responsibilities for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies contained in this newsletter. Nor do they accept any liability for loss or damage suffered directly or indirectly for use of information contained in this newsletter. Nor do they warrant that articles or opinions published in this newsletter are necessarily the opinions held by the Sub-branch, the Committee or the Editor.
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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 1403hrs.

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 Vice President Gary Barnes who asked the members to remember in particular a fallen comrade during the silent tribute. The fallen comrade was Gary Lee Sanchez

Attendance 19 as registered (Including 6 visitors/guests):

Apologies: President Bob Barnes, Tony Benford

New members/transfers: None in attendance

Visitors:-

Peter Tull (visitor from Gold Coast, Qld)  
Dr Mario Samson & Ronals Seer (Office of the City Veterinarian)  
Col Nick Targa & 2 associates (CDC Corporate Social Responsibility Office)

ORDER GIVEN TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS.

Bill Hall introduced Dr Samson who briefed the meeting about the worldwide Rabies Awareness Month and the coming spaying and castration of domestic animals in the AC area. The Secretary is to have the invite letter copied and sent to the RSL-AC IT man to be mailed out.

Tony Dizon introduced Col Targa, who talked about a proposed medical mission at Clark Freeport. The mission will take place Saturday 2nd June. VP Gary will visit Col Targa closer to the event to finalize the details.

STANDING ORDERS RESUMED AT 1424 HRS.

Secretary:-

The Secretary mentioned that he had inadvertently made a couple of errors in the minutes of the February meeting. He advised that they should have read “Peter Henderson thanked Iain Briggs and Barry Whelan for their help at the Fiesta Raffle tickets”. Also it was Peter Henderson that mentioned the Christmas cakes.
Motion: The minutes of the general meeting held 20th February 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record but amended as stated.

MOVED Philip Salmon SECONDED Peter Henderson
CARRIED

Correspondence: The inward/outward correspondence has been attended to at committee level with the exception of the following:

Inward Correspondence:-
City Veterinary Office Invite to attend spaying and castration
Russell Pitt Various publications.

State RSL Minutes of Executive meeting ****

David Caracciolo, Requesting an authorization for George Christensen MP to act on behalf of the Sub Branch.

Outward Correspondence:-
George Christensen MP Authorization as requested by David Caracciolo,
Motion: The inward correspondence be accepted and the outgoing correspondence be endorsed.

MOVED Philip Salmon SECONDED Chris Weeks
CARRIED

**** The only interest to our Sub Branch was a section concerning membership, which stated that the State now had an extra member in their team. Hopefully, that will mean we will now be getting the overdue membership cards in the near future

Treasurers Report:-
Treasurer Ron presented his report. (Copy with original minutes)
Motion: The treasurer’s report be accepted as read and tabled.

MOVED Ron Parrott SECONDED Arthur Quinn
CARRIED

Welfare report:-
VP Chris Weeks advised that in January, we issued 9 wheelchairs: 1 regular and 8 special. 5 for March: 2 regular and 3 special with 2 more booked for 21st March. We now have only 12 specials in stock.

Medical Missions report:-
David Shine advised that at the last medical mission, we attended to 352 children at the Pulungbul Barangay. Next medical mission will be held on the 7th April at the basketball court in Teodoro Street.
General Business:

VP Gary advised that he attended the 81st Anniversary of the Philippine Artillery along with VP Chris Weeks and the Secretary. The monument is behind the new Petron gas station in Clark. President Albert Clifford from Subic also attended.

Gary showed the new RSL coffee mugs which are now on sale at only 200 Php. We only have 100, so if interested get in early.

6 hearing aids and batteries have been received from Maroochydore Hearing Centre, Sunshine Coast. Gary will write a letter thanking them.

Gary informed the meeting that Ron will not be nominating for Treasurer at the AGM.

Ron still has problems with the Auditor and the Audit report.

Ron also pointed out that some members who pay direct to State RSL do not qualify for RSL awards. Gary will check with State.

ANZAC Day:

The following information was passed to all in attendance:

- Tickets are printed and will be available at the Hotel Fenson reception.
- Volunteer/s required to man the door.
- Volunteer required for sale of merchandising.
- Flyers are available, members asked to get them into as many bars as possible.

Peter Henderson asked about “Mufti”. The State newsletter. We used to receive it via the Manila Embassy. Secretary will write to State and ask them to send future copies.

The raffle was drawn, #16. Lucky Peter Henderson.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1500 HRS