Hi to all our members and anyone else around the world that takes the time to read our monthly newsletter.

The July Medical Mission was a significant improvement on the June mission. It was conducted at Jesus Street, a location that we have never visited before. Medicine was provided to 575 children, 2 children's wheelchairs were issued and there was a need identified for three special wheelchairs. One child will be assessed to receive a hearing aid.

As mentioned last month, we had two important visitors this month, Rick Meehan OAM JP, Chairman, and Fred Campbell OAM, Vice Chairman, of the Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group. At Keith's insistence, they visited to assess what they can do under his banner to assist our organisation. They stayed at the Fenson Hotel, attended the July Medical Mission, and also both our Sat night raffle at Envy and the Mon night one at Emotions. They had a "working lunch" with myself and a few of the Committee on the Friday and a dinner at Envy with many of the Committee members and their wives/GF on Saturday evening. At the raffle on Mon
evening, they presented the RSL AC Sub-Branch with a wonderful “Digger Day” rugby shirt, which we will proudly display in our new club rooms.

And, as I have mentioned for many months now, we **STILL** need a volunteer to coordinate and run the RSL AC Sub-Branch Blood Bank, and another member to serve as the AC RSL Sub-Branch **Welfare Officer**. If you are interested in either of these important positions, please contact myself or any other member of the Committee.

That's all for this month, but as promised in previous reports, we are now able to include some photographs of the new clubrooms under construction.

Best Regards,

Gary B
RSL EVENTS SCHEDULE AUGUST 2019

RSL Raffle every Saturday during the rugby

Tickets in the Monster Raffle on sale

RSL Raffle every Saturday during the rugby

Raffle at EMOTIONS BAR
Drawn at 6:00pm, 15 draws
Each Monday
Great Prizes to be won

A special thanks to the Blue-Book for advertising our events. We appreciate the help.

Medical Mission Sat 3rd August
San Francisco Elementary School
San Francisco Barangay
Magalang – Mexico (see mud map)

Tuesday 6th August 2019
2:00pm COMMITTEE MEETING
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Voodoo, Labamba, Angel Witch

Tuesday 13th August 2019
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Body Shop, Envy Sports, Secrets bar

Tuesday 20th August 2019
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Ice Bar, Baby Dolls, Blue Sapphire

Tuesday 27th August 2019
2:00pm Social Tuesday at Hotel Fenson
4:00pm Touch of Class, Emotions

Web site www.rslangelescity.com or
secretary@rslangelescity.com or
philsalmon@y7mail.com

Note: NO general meeting in August. The next general meeting will be held 15th October

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
AUGUST 18
11 am service followed by lunch at the Hotel Fenson
DETAILS IN NEWSLETTER

How not to get lost:
- 7 Kms from Marquee Mall (Angeles – Magalang Road)
- 5.7 Kms past EPZA Calte
- 100 mts past the Shell Gas Station
- Or be at the Hotel Fenson at 7:00am

To Marquee Mall
Angeles - Magalang Rd

Shell Gas Station

MISSION VENUE
San Francisco Elementary School
8:00am start

The Lord is My Shepard Memorial Park

Lords Epiphany Church
Jesus Street Medical Mission  
6th July 2019

The venue (Right) under cover in a warm day with little or no breeze but that didn’t stop our volunteers helping the local children. The tents gave a carnival feeling in a very poor area of Angeles City.

RIGHT: Sub Branch Secretary Philip Salmon with two nurses from the AUF manning the de-worming table. Never the most popular treatment table but equally important for the wellbeing of the children.

BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: The AUF nurses were kept busy at the first aid station. Without the mission, these children may not have received treatment.

SUMMARY:
We attended to 535 children, issued 3 regular wheelchairs on the day and assessed 3 more for special wheelchairs and 1 hearing aid.
Jesus Street Medical Mission 6th July 2019

BELOW: One of the three wheelchairs issued on the day

ABOVE: Top left, our two special visitors from Australia: the chairman of the Keith Paynr VC Veterans Benefit Group, Mr Rick Meeham OAM JP with Vice Chairman Fred Campbell OAM. They came to the Philippines at the request of Keith to see how they can help our Sub Branch.

ALMOST CENTRE is Geoffrey Blanchette with some of his staff from RBI Steak House located in the Queens Hotel. When Geoffrey returns from an overseas trip, he intends to attend the missions and feed the children with the help of his staff. Some very interesting information is shown below, taken from the RBI web site

ACF certified executive chef: Geoffrey Blanchette

I have been to 9 world competitions with 57 world medals, and I’ve been fortunate enough to serve in the US Army where I cooked for Generals for 12-years. I’m a highly trained chef with 36-years in the cooking industry. Working in the military has given me the discipline that helps in producing a quality dining experience. My career has given me high standards in culinary arts, which I believe are necessary in order to create a really great restaurant. My motto is: “never lower your standards to meet the masses, but to train the masses to your standards.” Most non-restaurateurs do not realize how much work it takes to operate a first class establishment. Usually it’s just a matter of food and service – but there is a lot happening behind the scenes that is often overlooked. I have found it challenging to own a restaurant in Angeles City, but is also quite rewarding. It is somewhat difficult to work 7-days a week to keep up the standards and oversee every detail, but that is the job and I do it for you. We have a lot of great customer feedback, and I strive to keep running a high-quality restaurant for Angeles expats and tourists alike to enjoy.

Geoffrey Blanchette
**Vietnam Veterans Day**

**Top Left:** Meet our guest speaker, His Excellency Ambassador Steven Robinson AO who will be accompanied by Mrs Rhonda Robinson and Defence Attaché Group Captain Ian Goold CSC.

**Top Right:** President Rodrigo Duterte receives the credentials of Ambassador-designate of The Commonwealth of Australia to the Philippines Steven James Robinson at the Malacañan Palace on January 15, 2019.

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As many of you are aware, work on our new meeting room and wheelchair storage facility is well underway. (See photos in this newsletter). The drawings/plans have been in previous editions that show a merchandising enclosure and also a memorabilia display area. At the moment, we do not have items to display in the memorabilia display and as such, we are seeking items to show as donated items or on items on loan. Below are examples of what we would like:-

- Military rifles/Bayonets
- Uniforms (All services)
- Medals
- Helmets
- Samurai sword
- Gas masks
- Military knives
- Shell cartridge
- Plus any item of military interest

Donated/loaned items will be displayed with details of the object as shown.

**NOTE:** revolvers/rifles to be rendered inoperable

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**303 RIFLE/BAYONET (NAVY ISSUE)**

Donated (loaned) by (Name of donor)
Service No 123456 (if applicable)

Additional info on the item: e.g. how it was obtained, age of item etc.
Another busy day for the Wheelchair Team

Wednesday 3rd July. Another 4 lives changed for the better, 2 children from Bulacan, 1 from Pandan and 1 from Marcos Village, Clark. The young boy on the left has had a hard life so far with his disabilities. His new chair will make his and his family’s life a lot easier and although he doesn’t show it, he was thrilled with his new transport (We hope)

**WELL DONE WHEELCHAIR TEAM**

At the July committee meeting, wheelchair coordinator Graham Crispin advised that more volunteers have joined his team. President Gary Barnes wishes to thank the new members for giving their time to help the less fortunate. All we need now is a welfare officer and a blood bank manager, both are vital rolls that do not take too much time. Contact any committee members if you are prepared to help fellow members, guests and friends, remember:-

**WE ARE A WELFARE ORGANIZATION. WE NEED YOUR HELP**

4 more booked for next week
Wheelchair Team
10th July 2019

LEFT: 3 more lives changed thanks to Graham Crispin and his hard working team. These 3 came from the Jesus Street medical mission held 6th July.

BOTTOM LEFT: This 12 year old girl said “Christine, sit on my knee”. So happy to receive a chair.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Here we see Peter Van Huisstede with an almost completed chair. Peter was not well but the needs of the children came first.
What makes the “Special” wheelchairs so different?

Angeles City RSL has, for around 6 years now, supplied two types wheelchairs to Philippine children; both are given completely free of charge. We give a conventional paediatric wheelchair - which is largely non-adjustable - and a Special Wheelchair, which is infinitely adjustable.

These Special wheelchairs are supplied to us by a West Australian company, Wheelchairs for Kids (W4K), based in Wangara, a northern suburb of Perth. They are generously supplied to us free of charge, though we (Angeles City RSL) have to pay for the ocean freight and all local taxes, duties and inland freight here in the Philippines.

Supplied to us in an FCL of 166 wheelchairs, the wheelchairs arrive boxed in component form; some sub-assembly work has already been done at the factory. We take 15 measurements of the child and then construct a custom-built wheelchair for that child, a process that takes 6-9 man-hours for each wheelchair. Typically, the child has around 5 trial fittings before the Wheelchair Team is satisfied that the chair setting are optimum and will meet the specific needs of the child.

This chair is designed for special-needs children and most of the recipients here in Philippines are generally sufferers of either Cerebral Palsy, Polio, Meningitis or Muscular Dystrophy, though we do encounter other debilitating conditions. The vast majority of the recipients here - over 70% - suffer from Cerebral Palsy.

We can adjust the angle of the back-rest, the height and placement of the hip supports and the upper-body supports. The seat cushion and back-rest can have extra foam padding added, so as to ensure that the child is comfortable. A head-rest can be fitted, which can also have lateral supports to limit sideways head movement, if required. A two or four-point harness can also be supplied, so as to ensure that the child is securely located in the wheelchair. If the child has differing leg lengths that too can be catered for, as the footrests are independently adjustable in both the fore-and-aft plane, as well as vertically. A tray table, adjustable for both height and reach, can also be fitted. This provides not only a table for feeding or play purposes, but can also double as a desk for the child.

Additionally, each child also receives a cuddly toy, a crocheted blanket and a tennis ball, all of which come in the kit, kind courtesy of the folks at W4K. To see the joy on the faces of the parents when their child receives the wheelchair is something really special for all involved; tears are often shed, frequently by our hard-bitten Team volunteers, ‘though being macho, they sometimes try to hide the obvious...

To literally take a weight off the shoulders of parents who could never otherwise hope or afford to give their child a wheelchair, is something really special. To give personal mobility to a child who have never, ever, had that in their life before, that’s definitely the icing on the cake. Their smiles are something really special to see.

The above information supplied by Snr. Vice President Chris Weeks.
Like all Sub Branches (and other Non-Profit originations), we are dependent on volunteers to help us with our quest to help the underprivileged children in around Angeles City. In the newsletter, you see our valued volunteers/helpers at the medical missions, you see them with the Special wheelchairs who work tirelessly every Wednesday morning. What we don’t see are the un-sung heroes who help to raise funds for our activities. I’m referring to our gorgeous raffle ticket sellers who give up Saturday evenings to sell the tickets at envy, bistro, sports, suites. The President and committee decided that recognition is well overdue and presented Certificates of Appreciation to the girls after the raffle was drawn. Pictured left to right:-

Michelle Asis, Christine Salmon, Crestal Bilagantol

The picture above was taken at envy, bistro, sports, suites after Vice President Scott Chambers presented the girls with framed certificates of Appreciation. In the background on the stage, you can see the 400cc Ace Motorcycle which is the first prize in our Monster Raffle. Tickets are still available and the draw will be after the NRL grand final, October 6th. The total prize pool is approx. 365,000 PhP and consist of 14 great prizes including (as pictured) a 400cc “Ace” Motorcycle.

**Tickets available at:-**
- Envy
- Hotel Fenson
- Walkabout Hotel
- Labamba
- Emotions
- Baby Dolls
- Garfield’s

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- Hotel Fenson
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- Emotions
- Baby Dolls
- Garfield’s

Please support your local RSL
Hi, I’m President Gary Barnes. The plans for this project were drawn a year ago. Not all dreams become reality but this one is with thanks to our members, friends & supporters. See you soon in our NEW MEETING ROOM.
THE POST-WAR MILITARY SERVICE OF FILIPINO-AUSTRALIANS

Part 5: Mariano Delfin Cubillo, Malayan Emergency

Eight Filipino-Australians from the Northern Territory volunteered for service with the AIF during World War 1, and nineteen Filipino-Australians with a Northern Territory connection are known to have volunteered during World War 2. At least ten Filipino-Australians continued this tradition of operational service after the war, serving as members of the Australian military forces between 1945 and 1975.

Antonio Pedro Cubillo (1875-1945)

Ongoing research has identified that two Filipino-Australians served in the Australian military forces during the undeclared war known as the Malayan Emergency – one of them being Gunner Mariano Delfin Cubillo.

Mariano Cubillo was the son of Delfin and Theresa Cubillo, and a grandson of the Filipino pearl diver Antonio Pedro Cubillo (1875-1945) from Calape on Bohol Island and Magdalena (née McKeddie, 1878-1934). Antonio was a grandson of Inocencio Cubillo, a Filipino-Spanish sail-maker who had left Spain in 1851 and settled in the Philippines, and the first child of Gregorio ('Bigoy') Cubillo and his wife Macaria.

In Palmerston (as Darwin was then known), Antonio was a diver indentured to a Scottish pearl lugger owner George McKeddie (1851-1927). Antonio soon began a relationship with McKeddie’s only daughter Lily, and they had five children during their long courtship.

Lily became known as ‘Magdelena’ after being baptised in order to marry Antonio. They married at Saint Mary’s Cathedral on 8 September 1910, and produced several more children – a total of ten, all essentially Larrakia but with typically Filipino names: Christina Mary, Alberta Beatrice, Ponciano Pedro, Juan Roque, Lorenzo Jose, Martina, Eduardo Francis, Delfin Antonio, Anna Apolonia and Felipe.

Delfin Antonio Cubillo (1914-1986)

Delfin Cubillo was Antonio and Lily’s eighth child and fifth son, born on 24 January 1914 in an area of Cavenagh Street known then as ‘Malaraytown’. He attended the Darwin Convent School (St Joseph’s) in Cavenagh Street, and was involved with boxing, football and the Filipino String Band. With his five brothers, Delfin was a member of Darwin’s ‘White Horse Boxing Club’, and was an outstanding Australian Rules footballer.

From the age of 15 Delfin worked as a messenger boy with the PMG Department. He later lived on the 2½-mile Road, and became Darwin’s first Dental Technician. On 28 March 1936 married Theresa Josephine (née Moban/Clarke, 1918-2005) who was originally from Broome, with his brother Juan Roque Cubillo as best man. Delfin and Theresa had three children: Mariano Delfin Cubillo, Inez Susana Cubillo (1939-2000) and John Raymond Cubillo (1949-1999).

On 12 January 1942, Theresa Cubillo and her children were evacuated by aircraft to Brisbane, and then to Sydney where they stayed with the family of Delfin’s older brother Ponciano.

Delfin stayed in Darwin, and survived the bombing unscathed (although not without some near misses), spent time searching for the body of his brother John, and was one of the volunteers to dig the first graves at Adelaide River Cemetery. He served in the Army during World War 2 as a dental mechanic (1942-46), and re-established the family in Darwin in 1948. Delfin Cubillo died in Darwin on 8 March 1986, aged 72.

Mariano Delfin Cubillo

Mariano Cubillo was born in Darwin on 12 September 1936, Delfin and Theresa’s first child. Like his father, he attended St Joseph’s Primary School in Cavenagh Street.

He also left school and worked as a messenger boy with the PMG Department. He grew up known as ‘Murray’, but was later known to his army colleagues as ‘Slippery’. Mariano was also involved in amateur boxing and soccer, and was an original member of the inaugural St Mary’s Football Club in 1952-53. Murray and his sister Inez were evacuated to Sydney with their mother in advance of the anticipated Japanese attacks on Darwin.

4/1775 Gunner Mariano Delfin Cubillo

Mariano enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in Adelaide in 1955. He was given the number ‘4/1775’ – the numeral ‘4’ prefixed indicated his enlistment in SA, the Army’s 4th Military District. The oblique stroke in post-war Australian Regular Army numbers remained in use until 1960.

He underwent recruit training at Kapooka, where he was a contender in the boxing tournament, and was runner-up in the Lightweight Division. Cubillo was assigned to the Royal Australian Artillery and served at Wagga Wagga, North Head and Georges Heights (light anti-aircraft artillery), and then at Holsworthy (25-pounder field artillery). He was then posted to 105 Field Battery, RAA.

The undeclared war known as the ‘Malayan Emergency’ was a guerrilla war fought in the Federation of Malaya from 1948 until 1960, costing the lives of some 1,800 Malayan and Commonwealth troops. Among them were 45 Australians who lost their lives during and immediately after this conflict.

Australia’s commitment to Malaya fell within the context of its membership of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve (BCFESR). The Australian battalions and other ground elements saw operational service in Malaya under the command of Headquarters Far East Land Forces (FARELFL). The Commonwealth contribution included Malayan and British units, including Gurkhas and Royal Marines. Other Commonwealth troop contributing nations included Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia.

The Australian commitment to the FESR led to the re-emergence of the Australian 105th Field Battery on 1 July 1955. The Battery sailed for Malaya on 6 October 1955, and supported the British,
Malay and Australian battalions until its return to Australia in October 1957.

The Australian units sent to Malaya formed part of the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group, a formation of the BCFESR created in Malaya on 16 September 1955. The brigade comprised forces from Australia, New Zealand and the UK – primarily three infantry battalions (Australia contributing a rotating battalion group), and a British field artillery regiment with an Australian field artillery battery.

During this time the deployed Australian battalion (October 1955 to August 1957) was the 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (2RAR).

Headquarters 28th Commonwealth Infantry Brigade Group and the infantry battalions were stationed at Minden Barracks on Penang Island in North Malaya (although from 1959 they began relocating to Terendak Camp in Malacca on the west coast). 105 Field Battery had its headquarters in Butterworth, on the mainland half of the State of Penang, and its gun troops were based in Perak and Kedah states.

The battery became the first unit of the Royal Australian Artillery to fire a shot in anger since World War 2. Queenslander Sergeant Ray Nevin of Cairns had drawn a lot which gave his 25 pounder crew the honour of opening the battery shoot, firing the first Australian shot in Malaya.

An image held by the Australian War Memorial shows Gunner Mariano Delfin Cubillo of Darwin with his gun crew from ‘B’ Troop cleaning and maintaining their 25-pounder QF field gun on 2 January 1956, after an all-night shoot at communist-terrorist positions in Southern Kedah. On that day, 2RAR had just begun patrolling a stretch of hilly jungle in Kedah State in Operation ‘Deuce’, after the 25 pounder guns had shelled target areas overnight. RAF jets strafed and fired rockets into the jungle in support of the ground troops. The guns of ‘B’ Troop were set up in a rubber estate in Kedah known as ‘Dublin Estate’ (with the operational nick-name ‘Prune Seed’).

In conjunction with the other Commonwealth forces, the Australian commitment during this long campaign upheld the sovereignty of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957 (and the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963).

On Hari Merdeka (‘Independence Day’), the declaration of independence from the British Empire was read by Tunku Abdul Rahman at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur. To ‘A’ Troop, 105 Field Battery fell the privilege of firing a 101 gun salute during the ‘M’ Day Parade in Penang marking Malayan Independence Day, while Gunner Cubillo and ‘B’ Troop remained on call near Tambun in support of the 2nd Federal Infantry Brigade.

105 Field Battery suffered one accidental death during this deployment, as a result of a motor vehicle accident on 2 August 1957: 2/8649 Bombardier Donald Keith Sutton.

The battery very nearly lost an entire gun crew however – at Butterworth on the afternoon of Friday 28 September 1956 when a 25-pounder shell exploded prematurely; “The Army said the men were admitted to Kamunting Hospital, Malaya, and their relatives had been notified”.

This incident occurred during a fire mission conducted by ‘B’ Troop, providing harassing fire in support of 1 Malay Regiment during Operation ‘Deuce’ (continuing search and security operations in Kedah). Gunner Cubillo was among six members who sustained minor injuries and were admitted to Kamunting British Military Hospital (BMH Kamunting) in Taiping, Perak State. The war diary records that the gun was completely unserviceable after the incident.

On the afternoon of 18 October 1957, Gunner Cubillo embarked in Penang with the single and married unaccompanied members of 105 Field Battery on HMT New Australia. On 19 October the embarkation of 2RAR and miscellaneous detachments was complete, and the New Australia sailed that afternoon.

Cubillo and many of his mates were destined for posting to the 1st Field Regiment, RAA; he continued to serve until 13 August 1960.

After his military service, Murray Cubillo worked as a survey chainman with the Department of the Interior, storeman with Bagot Community, (notably at the time of Cyclone Tracy), Bagot Community Welfare Officer and later Manager, and Field Officer with the Northern Land Council.

Commemoration
‘Cubillo Street’ in the Darwin suburb of Wanguri, named on 7 April 1971 in honour of Mrs Louisa Agatha Cubillo, also recalls the memory of her son Laurie and nephews Pedro and Murray Cubillo who all saw military service with the Australian Army during the post-war period.

The service and sacrifice of Australian personnel in this 12 year conflict, together with their Malayan and Commonwealth colleagues, was not in vain, serving to uphold the sovereignty of Malaya allowing the successful attainment of independence on 31 August 1957, and the eventual creation of Malaysia on 16 September 1963.

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 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: The headstone in the McMillans Road Cemetery in Darwin of Delfin Antonio Cubillo (1914-1986), father of Mariano Delfin Cubillo, Inez Susana Cubillo and John Raymond Cubillo.
**Image 2:** D544 Corporal Delfin Antonio Cubillo (1914-1986) served during World War 2 as a dental mechanic, from 18 March 1942 to 6 February 1948.

**Image 3:** Mariano Cubillo served with the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade Group, at a time when woven formation signs were worn on each shoulder of the shirt and battledress jacket.

**Image 4:** Formation insignia of the 17th Gurkha Division worn in Malaya (1952-57): the patch is printed in dark green on diagonal weave cotton drill material, unique to the Gurkha formation insignia, leaving the crossed kukris in white as a reverse silhouette. The 17th Gurkha Division was formed on 1 September 1952 at Maxwell Road Camp, Malaya as part of the British Army’s response to the Malayan Emergency, and became the operational headquarters for all British and Gurkha units in Malaya. From 1957, when the Federation of Malaya gained independence, the division was redesignated ‘17th Gurkha Division/Overseas Commonwealth Land Forces (Malaya)’. The Gurkhas suffered 367 casualties during the Malayan Emergency.

**Image 5:** Formation insignia of the 28th Commonwealth Independent Infantry Brigade Group. The brigade was formed in Malaya on 16 September 1955; it ceased to exist on 31 October 1971 when it relocated to Singapore and was renamed ‘28 ANZUK Infantry Brigade Group’.

**Image 6:** Extract from a ‘Summary of Conditions’ leaflet: service in the Malayan Emergency by Commonwealth army and air force personnel was recognised by the General Service Medal, 1918-1962. The qualifying period for the clasp ‘MALAYA’ was between 16 June 1948 and 31 July 1960.

Another article about a VC awardee, this time a British soldier, Bill Speakman VC appears on the following page.
Bill Speakman VC

William Speakman-Pitt, VC (born 21 September 1927 - 20 June 2018.) is a former British Army soldier and a recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was the first person to receive an honour from Queen Elizabeth II. As of February 2016 he is one of ten living VC recipients.

Military career

He was born and brought up in Altrincham, Cheshire. He was 24 years old and a private in the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), British Army, attached to the 1st Battalion, King’s Own Scottish Borderers during the Korean War when the following deed took place at United Hill, for which he was awarded the VC.

On 4 November 1951 in Korea, when the section holding the left shoulder of the company’s position had been seriously depleted by casualties and was being overrun by the enemy, Speakman, on his own initiative, collected six men and a pile of grenades and led a series of charges. He broke up several enemy attacks, causing heavy casualties and in spite of being wounded in the leg continued to lead charge after charge. He kept the enemy at bay long enough to enable his company to withdraw safely.

Although his award was made by King George VI, Speakman was the first VC invested by Queen Elizabeth II. He later achieved the rank of sergeant and served in Malaya (with the Special Air Service) Borneo and Radfan.

Later life

Due to financial hardship, Speakman sold his original VC, using the money to put a new roof on his cottage, but later got a genuine replacement. His Victoria Cross is displayed in the National War Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh Castle. He was interviewed for the 2006 television docudrama Victoria Cross Heroes, which also included archive footage and dramatisations of his actions.

In a ceremony held in Seoul on 21 April 2015, for visiting veterans of the Korean War, Speakman gave a replica of his Victoria Cross and other medals to the people and government of South Korea.

Bill Speakman is currently a uniformed in-pensioner of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. He still meets Queen Elizabeth II, and other Victoria Cross recipients at reunions. Speakman died on 20 June 2018.

The VC citation

14471590 Private William Speakman Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), attached to the 1st Battalion The King’s Own Scottish Borderers

From 0400 hrs., 4th November, 1951, the defensive positions held by 1st Battalion The King’s Own Scottish Borderers were continuously subjected to heavy and accurate enemy shell and mortar fire. At 1545 hrs., this fire became intense and continued thus for the next two hours, considerably damaging the defences and wounding a number of men.

At 1645 hrs. the enemy in their hundreds advanced in wave upon wave against the King’s Own Scottish Borderers’ positions, and by 1745 hrs. fierce hand-to-hand fighting was taking place on every position. Private Speakman, a member of ”B” Company, Headquarters, learning that the section holding the left
shoulder of the company’s position had been seriously depleted by casualties, had had its N.C.Os. wounded and was being over-run, decided on his own initiative to drive the enemy off the position and keep them off it. To effect this he collected quickly a large pile of grenades and a party of six men. Then, displaying complete disregard for his own personal safety, he led his party in a series of grenade charges against the enemy; and continued doing so as each successive wave of enemy reached the crest of the hill. The force and determination of his charges broke up each successive enemy onslaught and resulted in an ever-mounting pile of enemy dead.

Having led some ten charges, through withering enemy machine-gun and mortar fire, Private Speakman was eventually severely wounded in the leg. Undaunted by his wounds, he continued to lead charge after charge against the enemy, and it was only after a direct order from his superior officer that he agreed to pause for a first field dressing to be applied to his wounds. Having had his wounds bandaged, Private Speakman immediately re-joined his comrades and led them again and again forward in a series of grenade charges, up to the time of the withdrawal of his company at 2100 hrs. At the critical moment of the withdrawal, amidst an inferno of enemy machine-gun and mortar fire, as well as grenades, Private Speakman led a final charge to clear the crest of the hill and hold it, whilst the remainder of his company withdrew. Encouraging his gallant but by now sadly depleted party, he assailed the enemy with showers of grenades and kept them at bay sufficiently long for his company to effect its withdrawal.

Under the stress and strain of this battle, Private Speakman’s outstanding powers of leadership were revealed, and he so dominated the situation that he inspired his comrades to stand firm and fight the enemy to a standstill.

His great gallantry and utter contempt for his own personal safety were an inspiration to all his comrades. He was, by his heroic actions, personally responsible for causing enormous losses to the enemy, assisting his company to maintain their position for some four hours and saving the lives of many of his comrades when they were forced to withdraw from their position.

Private Speakman’s heroism under intense fire throughout the operation and when painfully wounded was beyond praise and is deserving of supreme recognition.—London Gazette, 28th December, 1951.
JOKE OF THE WEEK

A young artist exhibits his work for the first time, and a well known art critic is in there. The critic approaches the artist and says: “Would you like my opinion on your work?” “Yes, sure. I would love to hear it.” says the artist. “It’s worthless,” says the critic. To which the artist replies: “I know, but tell me anyway.”

Visitor to West Wyalong in New South Wales was interested to learn that the Bland Shire in which the town is located had teamed up with Dull in Scotland and Boring in Oregon to create a “league of extraordinary communities”. Bland and Boring apparently named after early residents while Dull got its name from the Pictish word for field. Whatever the story it makes for a great sign.

Americans might know the difference now between Australia and Austria but we still have a way to go in the recognition of states. Goodmailer was talking to a salesman in San Francisco recently, who said: “I know where you come from ... Australia.”

He then went on to explain how he had recognised the customer’s Aussie accent as he had shared an apartment with an Australian when he was at college. “He was a great guy who came from that island at the bottom of Australia, you know, where strange people come from. What’s it called again? Oh yes, Transylvania.”

And speaking of Transylvania (above) another joke. Two nuns are driving through Transylvania when they see a vampire in the middle of the road. One nun says to the other: “Show him your cross.” The other nun sticks her head out the window and yells: “Get out the road you toothy twat!”

These funny are compliments of the Goodmailer section of Brisbane Sunday Mail Newspaper 7 July 2019 by Journalist Michelle Collins.
Vietnam Veterans Day
18th August 2019

Sub Branch President Gary Barnes invites you all to join us at Clark Veterans Cemetery for an 11:00am service to show respect and admiration for our fallen comrades and give thanks to the ones that returned. (Please muster at 10:45am)

Between 1965 and 1972, 510 Australians lost their lives in the Vietnam conflict. A further 3,129 were wounded, injured or suffered illnesses.

*We will remember them.........Lest we forget*

After the service, join us at the Hotel Fenson for lunch and Camaraderie

Admission to the hotel Fenson is 400 Php (single) or 700 Php (double) (children free) which includes 3 “free” raffle tickets, a free buffet style lunch with a variety of meats (thanks to Scott Chambers and his Prime Choice Meats). Local drinks till 4:00pm PLUS Raffles in the afternoon.

*BRING THE FAMILY CHILDREN WELCOME*

(Note: NO LIFEGUARD on duty)
The Deadliest Female Sniper in History

In 1957 two women sat, stiff and formal, because of an unwelcome man. Fed up, the younger one grabbed the other, pulled her into a room, and locked the door despite the man’s protests. With him out of earshot, the friends reminisced.

One was the wife of a former US president while the other was a heroine of the Soviet Union.

Lyudmila Mykhailivna Pavlichenko was born on July 12, 1916, in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine, Russia. When she was 14, her family moved to Kiev where she joined the Volunteer Society for Cooperation with the Army, Aviation, and Navy (DOSAAF). She did well in school. She also became a sharpshooter – little realizing where it would lead.

A competitive tomboy, she was also a sprinter and pole vaulter. She took pleasure in competing with boys still struggling with women’s equality in a new Soviet system.

In 1937, Pavlichenko completed her master’s degree in history and was working on her doctorate in 1941 when Nazi Germany invaded. In Odessa when it happened, she was among the first to volunteer, requesting to join the infantry. She had the option of becoming a nurse, but on producing her sharpshooting medals, she joined 2,000 other female snipers in the Red Army.
Pavlichenko joined the 25th Chapayev Rifle Division and was sent directly to the war front in early August 1941, armed with a Tokarev SVT-40 semi-automatic rifle.

By the end of the month, she had achieved 100 confirmed kills and was promoted to the rank of Senior Sergeant.

In mid-October, with Odessa overrun, her unit was evacuated by ship to Sevastopol in the Crimean Peninsula where she began counter-sniping — dueling with snipers. It involved waiting completely still for hours or days for an enemy sniper to make a move. She never lost a single fight with 36 confirmed kills.

Well-decorated Red Army women snipers celebrate victory in 1945. During the war, six women snipers were awarded the gold star of Hero of the Soviet Union. RIA Novosti photo

Her longest one took three days, but in the end, she claimed that “the Nazi made one move too many.” In May 1942, she became a Lieutenant having killed 257 enemy soldiers. Her acceptance speech was simple, “I’ll get more.”

The Germans knew of her, by then. On loudspeakers, they promised her the rank of a German officer and unlimited chocolates (which she found decadently sexist). After her 309th kill, the Germans went on their loudspeakers vowing to rip her into 309 pieces. Pavlichenko was flattered that they knew her score.

 <<< Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, Hero of the Soviet Union Maj. Lyudmila Pavlichenko, and Eleanor Roosevelt during Pavlichenko’s visit to Washington, D.C., ca. 1942. Pavlichenko was the top woman sniper of all time, with 309 confirmed kills, and the first Soviet citizen welcomed to the White House. Library of Congress photo

Her success lay in her strategy. Manikins tied to trees and bright pieces of cloth on bushes attracted her enemy. Often, she did not kill them outright — preferring to shoot them
in the legs first. When they cried out, enemy support arrived, or other soldiers slowed down as they helped their injured comrades – that was when Pavlichenko finished them all off.

She was severely wounded on three separate occasions. She also suffered as she lost friends and family, as well as her husband. In June 1942, she was injured by mortar fire.

Following her recovery, she was removed from combat due to her popularity. In July Pavlychenko was sent to America and Canada on a goodwill mission. She was the first Soviet citizen to be received by an American President when she met Franklin D Roosevelt in the White House.

She was dumbfounded by the questions from the American press. “Do you wear face powder?” they asked. “Why don’t you wear makeup?” “Do you curl your hair?” “Your uniform’s ugly, and it makes you look fat!” “You should smile more!”

In a country far removed from the war and more concerned about image, Pavlichenko was way out of her depth. First Lady Anna Eleanor Roosevelt took the young Soviet warrior under her wing.

At a press conference in Chicago, Pavlichenko said to the gathered crowd, “Gentlemen, I am 25 years old, and I have killed 309 fascist invaders… Don’t you think… you have been hiding behind my back for too long?”

It was a rousing success that followed throughout her tour. In Canada, thousands greeted her and a fellow Soviet sniper at Toronto’s Union Station. In November 1942 in Britain, she accepted a donation from factory workers of £4,516 for three X-ray units for the Red Army.

On returning home, she was made a Major, received the Gold Star, and was made a Hero of the Soviet Union. She never returned to combat and instead became an instructor training snipers until the end of the war.

Of the 2,000 Soviet female snipers who fought in WWII, only about 500 survived. Fortunately, Pavlichenko was among them.

When the war ended, she completed her doctorate, became a historian, and worked as a research assistant with the Soviet Navy. She also remarried and lived a quiet life in a two-room apartment.

During the Cold War between East and West, Mrs. Roosevelt said of the deteriorating US-Soviet relations that if “we ever hope to correct certain wrong impressions, we can do it only by contact with each other.”

In September 1957 Mrs. Roosevelt was granted entry to the Soviet Union. She received the red carpet treatment but was not allowed to meet anyone without a minder. In Moscow, she kept asking about Pavlichenko until finally the authorities relented and she was taken to her apartment.

They chatted with “cool formality,” Roosevelt explained, unable to do more because of the minder who sat with them. Then Pavlichenko pulled Roosevelt into her bedroom where the two hugged.

Roosevelt and Pavlichenko laughed, cried, and had quite a chat – proving that contact can indeed correct some wrong impressions.
RAAF Caribou Rescued from under Nose of Vietcong

Pride in their ability and a challenging situation turned a "black day" for the RAAF’s Caribou Squadron Vietnam into a success story which echoes the achievements of RAAF men in other wars.

It started with a Caribou of No. 35 Squadron Vietnam, crashing while landing at the tiny Special Forces Camp at Ba To, 40 miles south of Da Nang. Communications are so poor throughout Vietnam that it was not until early evening, six hours after the crash, that the Squadron’s Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Charles Melcher, knew anything of the accident. The report stated: "Wallaby 03, nosewheel collapsed while landing Ba To, no casualties" and no other information was available.

By first light next day, a Caribou was on its way to Ba To. On board was 35 Squadron’s Engineering Officer, Flight Lieutenant Wally Solomons and ten of his maintenance staff. They took along spares to repair the nosewheel. Three hours flying time brought them over Ba To, where the position of the crashed Caribou prevented them from landing. It had come to rest with the tail section across the centre of the strip, making it impossible to land another aircraft. Worst of all, everything except the nosewheel seemed to be damaged.

The relief Caribou then flew to Quang Nai, a distance of 25 miles where the US Army provided an Iroquois helicopter to ferry people and equipment to Ba To. On the ground at Ba To, Flt Lt Solomons listed the things to be done before the crashed Caribou could be flown out.

Photo Details: The aftermath of the accident pictured above left is described in "The RAAF in Vietnam" by Chris Coulthard-Clark (Australian War Memorial 1995), pp 117-119.

The port wing had to be replaced, a new engine was needed, the undercarriage on the port side was a write-off as well as the propeller and both sets of flaps, apart from new tyres, brake drums and radio antennae that had been torn off by the smash. All this to be done to get the Caribou airworthy without the luxury of a hangar or worthwhile maintenance gear which was available at Vung Tau. If these troubles were not enough, Ba To is situated right in the centre of the "Ho Chi Minh Trail", running down the East Coast of South Vietnam. At this point the trail is as much as five miles wide, running through the hills and valleys around Ba To.
To protect the Caribou from attempted destruction by VC Guerrillas were 12 Special Forces men, the eleven man RAAF maintenance team, three Sea Bees who were building roads in the area, and four Marines whom Wing Commander Melchert had parachuted in to help in an emergency. At night, the aircraft had to be left on the strip between the first barbed wire defence and the second which surrounded the compound.

There are nearly 70 Caribous in operation in Vietnam, but parts are not readily available. After the list of requirements was drawn up by Flt Lt Solomons, the big scavenger began. From Qui Mhon came the flaps and propellor. A Caribou had burned out at Vung Tau and from that wreckage came the wing. The US Army had an engine without accessories and the RAAF had the tyres, brakes and undercarriage. The small items were flown in once the aircraft had been jacked up, the undercarriage shored with wood and the aircraft dragged across the strip to the parking area, clearing the strip for landings. The wing was the biggest problem. It had to be flown into Ba To by a Chinook copter from Quang Nai because the strip would not take the Hercules that flew it from Vung Tau.

Once all the parts had arrived, the men set to with a will, stripping the damaged wing, replacing the undercarriage and changing the engine. Working in the sun without a hangar made the job harder. At times, temperatures of 127 degrees Fahrenheit were recorded by men working in the wing and engine compartments. The task was made longer too by the fact that a lot of parts were second hand and integrating control cables and linkages wasted valuable time. "Charlie", the Vietcong, was not idle. On the third night, a machine gun sprayed the area around the Special Forces Camp and the maintenance men were ordered to the concrete "Last Stand" bunker. There were no further disturbances that night.

On the following night, an infiltrator tried to breach the barbed wire perimeter and tripped a signal flare and once more the RAAF ground crew were ordered to the bunkers by the US Officer in Charge. Around the spot where the flare had been ignited, the Marines let loose with their grenade launchers and peppered the area with 30 rounds.

Next day a VC Claymore mine was found set-up in one of the bunkers. It was removed and harmlessly exploded. To stave off any last day attempt to destroy the aircraft, Flt Lt Solomons dropped hints among the local Vietnamese that the aircraft would take at least 14 days to repair. Towards the end of the sixth day however, after having worked non stop every daylight hour, the Caribou was ready to fly.

Some parts of the aircraft control surfaces were held by chains. The securing points for the flaps had been driven up into the wing by the impact of the crash and a chain had to be passed through them and lashed to the undercarriage to draw them into alignment. The Squadron's Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Charles Melchert, would only allow himself, his Flight Commander Flt Lt John McDonnell and crewman Corporal M. "Buggsy" Rose on board the Caribou for the take-off. To the relief of everyone, the take-off went without a hitch and with the undercarriage in the "locked down" position they flew all the way back to Vung Tau and safety.

The flaps which were held down by the chains were so close to alignment that they required only two degrees of correction to bring the aircraft into perfect trim.

Back at Vung Tau Flt Lt Solomons was asked what he intended to do now the aircraft was safe. He said; "park it, sleep for two days, and then I will see what can be done to get it flying again on the Wallaby Airlines".

A4-173 at the Queensland Air Museum, Oct 16
Another reason to attend our weekly raffles, we are pleased to announce **La Taberna** restaurant are supporting us with vouchers for the raffles. Known as **“The Best Italian Restaurant in Angeles”**, **Da Chef Tiziano** will satisfy your taste buds with delicious Italian food, steaks cooked to perfection or great BBQ. Another speciality is the Traditional Wood Fired Pizza’s, the way they should be made plus You can even get FREE DELIVERY. Try the house wine, we know you will come back for more. For a great night out, go to **La Taberna** 490a Don Juico Ave, Malababias, let them know you are from the RSL, we support our supporters.

For more info, check it out on facebook
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Do not forget, if dialing ‘in-country’ add in a O before the number

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance”
Lest We Forget
Returned & Services League of Australia
Angeles City Sub Branch, Philippines

MINUTES OF MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING HELD

16th JULY 2019

Call to order at 1406 hrs.

Ode to the fallen Recited by Vice President Scott Chambers who played a recording of "The Last Post" that was performed on a violin. Immediately after the silent tribute, V P Scott asked the members to remain standing and advised that two RSL members have passed away, names and details as follows:-

Colin Hurley. Colin was a well-known pool player and was in the pool team and also an avid cricket enthusiast. No funeral was conducted but it was planned that the pool players would hold a memorial service.

Barney Schinkel. Barney was a member of “Z Force” that performed what was classed as suicide missions during WW11, as such, very few records were kept. Films like the Dirty Dozen are possibly based on their missions. President Gary Barnes was ask to attend the service for Barney who was a member of Naracoorte RSL Sub Branch.

Ref: the passing of Colin Hurley. At a recent committee meeting, President Gary and Peter Renton were thanked for attending to the affairs of Colin which turned out to be a long and tedious task. Once again, it shows the need of a Welfare officer as the committee members are devoting many hours to the Sub Branch on other voluntary duties and do not have the time available when a welfare issue happens. V P Scott asked that the above be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

Attendance (as registered).

Apologies: - David Shine, Tony Bamford, Gary Barnes, Chris Weeks, Ron Parrott

Visitors: Bob Hunter, Greg Burial, Tony Melches

New Members/Transfers: None present

Vice President Scott Chambers:-
As both the President and Snr. Vice President were not in attendance, V P Scott asked the members to keep the meeting as short as possible. He added that the secretary needs to leave the meeting at 3:30, ongoing medical treatment.
Scott bought the members up-to-date with what has happened since the last general meeting that was held 16th April 2019, in point form as follows:-

- Work on our new rooms has started and we are now to pay the second progress payment.
- The President asked the State Branch for financial assistance for the new room, the State Branch did not approve the request.
- We had two important visitors from Australia, Rick Meehan OAM JP, Chairman, and Fred Campbell OAM, Vice Chairman, of the Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group. As a special request from Keith Payne, they were here to see how they can help this Sub Branch.
- Vietnam Veteran’s Day planning is well in hand. The Secretary contacted the Australian Embassy requesting a guest speaker. This year we will have His Excellency Ambassador Steven Robinson AO along with Mrs. Rhonda Robinson accompanied by Defense Attaché Group Captain Ian Goold CSC.

Secretary:-

The last general meeting was held 16th April 2019. The minutes were in the newsletter but the secretary will read the minutes if required.

Motion: The minutes of the general meeting held 16th April 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

MOVED Philip Salmon SECONDED Stephen Innes Carried

Matters arising from minutes:-

The majority of matters arising have been covered in the Vice President’s address with the exception of the following appointments made to comply with State Rules & By-Laws:-

(1) a memorial custodian Not applicable, the ABMC attend to the Clark Veterans Cemetery.

(2) a membership recruiting officer: Peter Renton was suggested.- TBC. ***

(3) a publicity officer: President Gary volunteered.

(4) a welfare officer: a long debate followed on this subject, no volunteers

(5) an appeals officer. Appeals are handled by the State Branch.

*** Note: David Shine will continue to the membership officer with the help from the committee.

Correspondence:-

The correspondence is covered in the VP’s address, other league matters are handled by the committee.

Treasurer’s report:-

Treasurer Ron Parrott has been overseas and was not in attendance for the meeting, as such, no financial report was available.
Welfare report:-
We have no welfare officer, therefore no report. The last welfare issues are covered in the VP’s comments following the silent tribute.

Medical Mission:-
Peter Renton (Medical Mission coordinator) advised that at the last medical mission held under canvas cover in Jesus Street, we attended to 535 children with medicines. In addition, 3 regular wheelchairs were issued on the day with a further 3 assessed for special wheelchairs.
The next medical mission will be held at Barangay San Francisco 3rd August. Mud map will be in the Bluebook and our newsletter. Geoffrey Blanchette from RBI Steak House is overseas but when he returns, he intends to feed the kids at future missions. (RBI Steak House is in the Queens Hotel)

Wheelchairs:-
Graham Crispin (Special Wheelchair Coordinator) advised that since April, 43 specials have been constructed and issued, 3 more planned for tomorrow (17th July). Graham gave a brief explanation to the visitors how the wheelchair program works.

Membership report: -
No report available for this meeting.

General Business:-
**Vietnam Veterans Day:** The members were advised that we need donations of raffle prizes. If any members wished to make a contribution, it would be greatly appreciated. A flyer for the event was handed to each member present.

**New rooms:** Ref memorabilia display. A flyer will be in the newsletter asking for items to be donated or on loan. It is hoped that we can secure some mannequin’s to display military uniforms. If any member can help secure the mannequin’s/dummies, please contact any committee member.

**Peter Renton:** Peter has details about the Hong Kong Fat Boys Rugby Tournament that will be held 6th September at Challenger Field, Clark. As usual, our Sub Branch will provide water for the players.

**Peter Renton:** Reference was made to our web site and the “Make a Will” page. Members were reminded that this will template when completed is accepted both here in the Philippines and in Australia. It was approx. 6 months in the making by and Australian solicitor and a local attorney. Unlike Australia, the will needs to be notarised by a local notary or solicitor.

**Peter Renton:** Peter advised that a full range of the medicines are available for sale from the locked area in the meeting room. A complete price list with details is on the notice board.
Mobility equipment: A member (name withheld) is about to undergo surgery, a hip operation and asked if an adult wheelchair would be available for loan. He was informed that a chair would be made available along with a walking frame and/or crutches when and if required.

Raffle Assistance: One of the visitors (Secretary did not get the name) asked about the raffles. He volunteered to help at the Saturday envy raffles. (Note: he was advised that no raffle will take place this coming Saturday but a raffle will be conducted the Sunday morning during the Manny Pacquiao v’s Keith Thurman (21st July),

Roo Schiller: Roo explained that we need more people to join the Tuesday Bar Hops at 4:00pm. The Fenson Jeepney will be available for medical missions and Vietnam Veterans day but not for bar hops.

The Raffle was drawn No 19: Scott Chambers.

BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1456 hrs.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD 15th OCTOBER 2019
Please attend and be part of your Sub Branch