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PATRON

Mr Keith Payne VC AM

Celebrated his and Flo's 70th Wedding Anniversary on the 4th of December 2024



President Gary Barnes and the Committee of Angeles City RSL wishes all members and readers of this newsletter a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Prosperous and Bright NEW YEAR for 2025



Philippines

President's Report

By: Gary Barnes CSC MSM – Sub-Branch President



December 2024

Hi to all our members and your families, here in the Philippines and wherever you currently reside. I hope you are all healthy and happy and looking forward to the festive season.

Sadly, I need to commence this report with some particularly bad news. Our beloved Treasurer, Dave "Kooka" Messent passed away on Thu 12 Dec 2024.

He was cremated on Sun 15th Dec and the ceremony was very well attended, by 50 + people. His two sons, Johnathan and Mathew, also travelled up from Australia to attend. Kooka, as he was known by all within the RSL circle and the Expat community of Angeles City, was our Treasurer in 2016 and again this year. He was an excellent treasurer. A fairly quiet chap but forthright, and friendly, and recognized by his cheerful outlook and wonderful "kookaburra" laugh, for which he was famous. He will be missed by all in the Expat and AC RSL Sub-Branch community. **RIP Kooka** (99)



On a brighter note, our Patron Keith Payne, VC, AM and his lovely wife, Flo, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on the 4th Dec 2024. With the excellent assistance of David Caracciolo in Mackay, QLD, we sent them our best wishes and a wonderful floral arrangement on behalf of all members of the AC RSL Sub-Branch. Photos of the arrangement and the wonderful couple are later in this newsletter.



The Medical Mission (MM) conducted on Sat 7thDec, was exceptionally well organized by our MM Officer, Joe, and well attended by Barangay Staff and our regular Doctors and Nurses, but poorly supported by the people living in the Barangay. The committee will examine how we can prevent this from occurring in the future.

Our "official" visitors from the Keith Payne VC Veteran's Group, Messer's Rick Meehan, OAM and Fred Campbell, OAM have come and gone. Short but sweet and they brought with them quite a few pairs of reading glasses and hearing aids and attended our MM on Sat 7th Dec. It was great to see you guys and thank you most sincerely.

Xmas Drinks were held on Tues 17th Dec at the Vincent Resort and Hotel and we estimate that approximately 100 members attended the function. It was a great day and a wonderful opportunity to pay our respects to all those who have passed away during the year, none more important than our secretary Mark Strampel, Peter Van Huissede, a long-serving member of the wheelchair team and our treasurer, the beloved Dave "Kooka" Messent. RIP all of them. A BIG thank you to Annabelle Young and her staff for making it a success.

We took the opportunity to thank Major Mick Cracknell for his wonderful support to us over his three-year tour here in the Philippines and farewelled him at the same time. We also presented him

with some AC RSL memorabilia and a purpose-made plaque.



Membership now sits at a very healthy 380 + financial members as of 15th Dec 2024, and we have 480 + folks signed up on our Facebook page. Well done to all involved, particularly Committee Members Roo and Bill.

(Late Mail: Roo and Peter signed up another 11 members during the members' Xmas function and the day before)

That's it for me this month. In closing, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a safe, prosperous and Happy New Year

Gary Barnes

WHAT IS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

(we will start from page 5)

Presidents' Christmas drinks	Page 5
Subic RSL Med Mission	Page 6
Our Med Mission 7 Dec	Page 7
Montage of pictures	Page 8
Keith and Flo Payne at home	Page 9
Kooka's funeral	Page 10
WFK 10 December	Page 11
An unexpected donation	Page 12
WFK 3 December	Page 13
An incredible generation	Page 14
Mateship Australian Style	Page 17
The headstone project	Page 18
A part of Australiana	Page 20
Movie review	Page 22
Aussie Jingle Bells	Page 23
Supporters adverts	Page 24
Committee details	Page 27
Applic membership Service	Page 28
Applic membership Social	Page 29
One Last Thing	Page 30
Happy New Year 2025	Page 30

PRESIDENTS CHRISTMAS DRINKS

President Gary Barnes gave a verbal report in his Presidents Report above. We just now need to include some photo's to enhance his report. Our resident photographer Shane was busy pushing the button on his camera. His pics are shown below as a link.

Gary thanked Major Mick Cracknell for his never ending support given during his tenure in Manila. Here he presents Mick with RSL memorabilia and a special made plaque in appreciation for that support:



A bar mat was also a part of the presentations.

Here are Shane's photo's. Just go to CTRL and Click on the conx <u>https://photos.app.goo.gl/20XqHYKJr734Qiq1A</u>

OUR SISTER RSL SUB BRANCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

SUBIC SUB BRANCH

Probably not all RSL members would be aware that there are two RSL Sub Branches in the Philippines, ours in Angeles City and sister Sub Br in Subic.

Like our Sub Branch, they also conduct Medical Missions for the indigent local kids.

Subic Medical Mission, Nov 30, 2024



A group of volunteers

Below are some pictures taken at the time, reproduced by our Facebook administrator, Bill Brehm

Facebook (hold ctrl and Click on the link)

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

ANGELES CITY SUB BRANCH MEDICAL MISSION DECEMBER 7th

Some of the happy faces attending



The above pictures supplied by Sheyla Zambrano Quiroz

To view all of Sheyla's pictures here:

Medical Mission Sat 7th Dec 2024 - Google Photos

(Ctrl and Click)

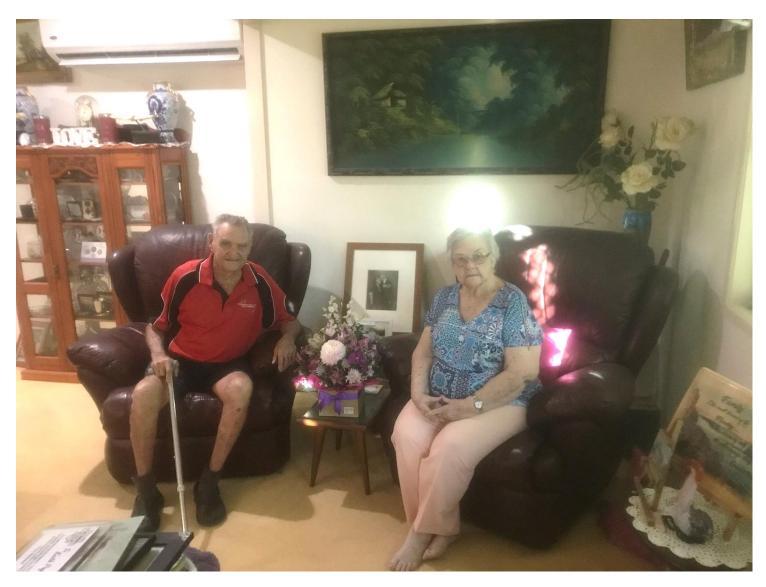
THESE ARE THE SERVICES WE OFFER



MONTAGE OF PICS (see next page)



Above is a montage of photos showing Keith and Flo Payne throughout the years. The <u>Keith Payne VC Veterans Benefit Group</u> put this together and posted it to their facebook page. It was subsequently posted onto our Sub Branch facebook, and I snipped it from there. Ed



David Caracciolo, a great family friend of Keith Payne VC AM and his wife Flo Payne OAM, took this photo of Keith and Flo sitting in their lounge room with our flower arrangement. David is a regular visitor to the couple and manages to keep an eye on their welfare and needs.

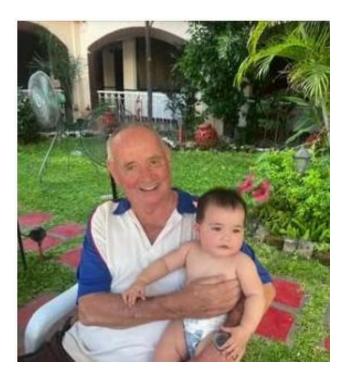
Keith is our oldest living VC awardee at 91 years.

FUNERAL OF 'KOOKA' MESSENT



Attendees at Kooka's funeral service, including his sons, in front.





WFK from Coord Graham Crispin

At Tuesday's WFK workshop (10 December) we had three kids brought to us who were gifted their new mobility.

Thanks to Judy Bradley of *Subic Bay RSL* for bringing up two kids from the Subic area.

Also thanks to Tersie for bringing Kyla from Magalang, who gave us another challenge but the team did a great job to get her into a wheelchair.

We also had our VIP visitors from the **Keith Payne VC Veteran's Benefits Group**, Chairman *Rick Meehan OAM*, President *Fred Campbell OAM* and *Andrew Martin*, who all pitched in and got on the tools. It was great to host our Patron, Keith Payne VC AM representatives and we are all looking forward to seeing you again next year.

As we will have our President's Christmas drinks next Tuesday 17th, this is my last WFK report for 2024.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, enjoy your time spent with family and friends and have a happy and healthy 2025.



Andrew Martin responded via facebook:

Andrew Martin

Absolute eye opener and a pleasure to attend and assist where possible assembling the wheelchairs. Angeles City RSL sub branch, all I can say is your passion and love towards these children are second to none. Hoping I get the opportunity to join you all again in 2025.

Photo's of the workshop: (Ctrl and Cick)

Wheelchair x3 Tue 10th Dec 2024 - Google Photos

AN UNEXPECTED DONATION AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Our Welfare officer advises:

We received a donation on the day of the Presidents Drinks from financial member *Kevin McGivney*. I only unpacked them yesterday to find one



adult wheelchair, one set of crutches and 5 sets of intravenous poles on casters. **See attached photo**. All are brand new and are now stored in our wheelchair room for any member requiring to borrow, free of charge, or purchase.

We thank Kevin for his very thoughtful donation which will see an IV pole put into immediate use as we have a member discharging from hospital. **Pete Renton**

WFK 3 DECEMBER 2024

From coord Graham (Spinner) Crispin

WFK customers from Bulacan. We could only complete one wheelchair for Cara, as sadly I had to make the call that it was too dangerous to give **Angel** hers as her neck and upper torso could not support the weight of her head and she was struggling to breath. Maybe we'll try again in a couple of years when she's bigger and stronger.

Shane was away and Shayla did the photography with a lot of great shots, *but they are only on our FB page*. I've added a few here that I liked.

We also had Matt and Hayden from the **RAAF** call in to give us a hand.



Trying unsuccessfully to fit a chair to Angel.

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE GENERATION

WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS

This is a story about a group of civilians who formed the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) in the UK during the Second World War.

The ATA delivered and transferred aircraft from factories to RAF bases in the UK, and base to base, and eventually, after D Day, into Europe.

A vast proportion of these pilots were women. They flew unarmed aircraft with no communications or navigation assistance to these forward bases, neither accompanied nor assisted.

One of those incredible women was Mary Ellis.



Mary Ellis in WW2

Mary with a Spitfire aged 100 years

Mary Ellis (née **Wilkins**; 2 February 1917 – 24 July 2018) was a British ferry pilot, and one of the last surviving British female pilots from the Second World War.

Early life

Mary Wilkins was born on 2 February 1917, at Langley Farm, in Leafield, Oxfordshire, the only daughter and third of four children.

She developed a fascination with aviation from a young age, as her family home was located near Royal Air Force bases at Bicester Airfield and Port Meadow.

When she was eight, the Sir Alan Cobham Flying Circus visited the area, and she persuaded her father to pay for a joy ride in an Avro 504. She decided she wanted to learn to fly.

When she was 16 she started having lessons at a flying club in Witney, successfully gained a private pilot's license and flew for pleasure until the start of the Second World War in 1939, when all civilian flying was banned.

Second World War

In October 1941, she joined the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA), and was posted to a pool of women flyers based in Hamble in Hampshire. Over the course of the war, she flew over 1,000 planes of 76 different types.

These including Harvards, Hurricanes, Spitfires and Wellington bombers. Some of her flights were to relocate planes from Royal Air Force airfields to the frontline, and others were to ferry new planes from factories to airfields.

Mary retold many of her experiences flying for the ATA. One was when she was delivering a Spitfire, she became aware of a Luftwaffe fighter off her left wing, with the German pilot staring at her in amazement. She was not wearing a helmet, and her blond hair was billowing around the cockpit.

She was soon using both hands in a shooing action, indicating to the German to go away. It worked. He gave her a wave and peeled off and disappeared.

Another time she delivered a Wellington Bomber to an airbase. Ground crew crowded around the aircraft when it stopped. Mary alighted and the ground crew asked where the pilot was. She replied that she was the pilot. Unbelieving, they searched the aircraft and then in amazement, stated that it takes five crew to fly that aircraft. Mary's reply was, show me where I can get my receipt signed. Another anecdote was when she was delivering an aircraft to a very busy airfield, without any communications, had to join a circuit of other aircraft to find a slot to land. Pushing into a tiny slot, a successful delivery was made.

On another occasion, the delivery airfield was fairly foggy, so after finding a fair clear piece of airspace, started her landing only to see another aircraft doing the same in the opposite direction. Veering right and hoping the other pilot veer to their right, a collision was avoided. It turned out the other aircraft was being delivered by a fellow ATA pilot.

Mary decided to write her name and signed it on the inside one of the Spitfires she was delivering. Decades later, when Mary was sitting at an airfield with some surviving ATA women, a Spitfire was parked behind them.



The pilot seen in the above picture asked Mary if she remembered putting her name and signature inside a Spitfire, when she confirmed it, the pilot pointed to the Spitfire and said "that is the aircraft", with her name and signature still visible.

Mary was asked to again re-sign inside the aircraft. However, her agility and age only allowed her to sign on the access door.

Mary died aged 101 on the 24th of July 2018. What an inspirational woman of her time.

Source: Partially Wikipedia but the rest from snippets in other sources. Larry Ed



MATESHIP – AUSTRALIAN STYLE

Truly one of the most incredible examples of mateship ever to be seen.

The photograph was taken at the ANZAC Day March in London in 1919.

An Australian soldier, who lost both his legs in WW1, being carried into Australia House by a mate to obtain a position of vantage to view the ANZAC Day March through the streets.

Every Australian should see this photograph and understand that to those Australians who have served their country in war, mateship meant everything.

Lest We Forget.

Image file number AWM H18643

The Headstone Project South Australia

I found this article on the above groups facebook. Ed

MEDALS RETURNED TO US FAMILY

On the 11th May 2024 we dedicated the headstone to Edward GANNON.

Owen and Jan live in Erskine Street, Goodwood. Opposite their house lived the Mahoney sisters. Their house had also been home to a lodger, Edward Gannon.

When Edward passed away in 1967, he was buried in a pauper's grave due to the fact that he had no family here in South Australia.

When the last of the Mahoney sisters passed away, Owen and Jan assisted in clearing possessions from their house. In addition to a number of personal papers, they found a purse which contained Edward Gannon's service medals from WWI.

Owen and Jan passed these medals on to the <u>Unley RSL</u> in the hope that they could track down a descendant of Edward Gannon, to whom the medals could be returned.

The Headstone Project, who use the RSL clubrooms for our monthly meetings was asked for assistance in this undertaking.

This is where our Senior Investigator, Ian Hopley became involved.

To commence the investigative process, Ian visited the Stephens' home to gather information to assist him in his task.

Following a significant amount of detective work, Ian found out the "2 Conn. Rang" was an abbreviation for the Second Connaught Rangers, an Irish Regiment embedded within the British Army.

He communicated with the <u>Connaught Rangers</u> Society in Ireland who were able to corroborate what Ian had already researched, and a history group in Ireland who sadly informed him that they could not pass on any information that they might have as it was confidential. Ian's dogged investigative skills in genealogy and family history research, enabled him to finally locate a living relative in New Jersey in the United States of America.

One can only imagine the surprise of Bob Conlin in New Jersey in the USA, a three times removed cousin of Edward Gannon, when he answered the phone call from

Ian Hopley, and was told that a distant relative of his had been found, and was buried in a South Australian cemetery. This relative had no idea that Edward Gannon had even existed let alone learn that he was a long lost and forgotten forebear. He was delighted that Ian had been able to expand his knowledge of his family.

In order to return the medals to Bob Conlin, members of the Headstone Project approached Senator <u>Simon Birmingham</u> to seek his assistance in having the medals sent via the Diplomatic Service to the Australian Embassy in Washington, in order to have them given to Bob Conlin.

MAJ Ross Crunkhorn President of the *Washington DC RSL Sub-Branch* and Mark Montague returning the medals of PTE E Gannon 2nd Connaught Rangers over to Mr Bob Conlon in New Castle, Delaware on Thursday, 21 November 2024.



I included this story as a general interest to our readers. Not often do we see a good result such as this. Ed

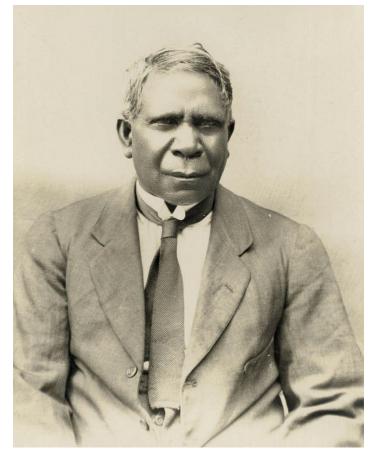
A PART OF AUSTRALIANA NOT GENERALLY TAUGHT

I wonder how many Australians are aware of this distinguished person.

He was a full blood Aboriginal of incredible intellect and ambition. He is shown on our \$50.00 note, which I guess, many who have handled the note would not have scrutinised the artwork on its sides. *Here is an abridged version of his life*.



His name is David Unaipon, an author, inventor, and preacher.



David Ngunaitponi (28 September 1872 – 7 February 1967), known as David Unaipon, was an Aboriginal Australian preacher, inventor, and author.

A Ngarrindjeri man, his contribution to Australian society helped to break many stereotypes of Aboriginal people, and he is featured on the Australian \$50 note in commemoration of his work. He was the son of preacher and writer James Unaipon.

David Ngunaitponi was born on 28 September 1872 at the Point McLeay Mission on the banks of Lake Alexandrina in the Coorong region of South Australia, Unaipon was the fourth of nine children of James, a preacher, and Nymbulda Ngunaitponi. Both parents were speakers of Yaraldi, and members of the Portaulun branch of the Ngarrindjeri people.

Unaipon began his education at the age of seven at the Point McLeay Mission School and soon became known for his intelligence, with the former secretary of the Aborigines' Friends'

Association stating in 1887: "I only wish the majority of white boys were as bright, intelligent, well-instructed and well-mannered, as the little fellow I am now taking charge of.

Inventor

Unaipon spent five years trying to create a perpetual motion machine. In the course of his work he developed a number of devices. He was still attempting to design such a device in his seventy-ninth year.

Unaipon took out <u>patents</u> for 19 provisional inventions but was unable to afford to get any of his inventions fully patented, according to some sources. Muecke and Shoemaker say that between "1910 and 1944 he made ten ... applications for inventions as varied as an anti-gravitational device, a multi-radial wheel and a sheep-shearing handpiece".

Provisional patent 15,624 which he ratified in 1910, is for an "Improved mechanical motion device" that converted rotary motion which "is applied, as for instance by an Eccentric", into tangential reciprocating movement, an example application given being sheep shears.

The invention, the basis of modern mechanical sheep shears, was introduced without Unaipon receiving any financial return and, apart from a 1910 newspaper report acknowledging him as the inventor, he received no contemporary credit.

Other inventions included a centrifugal motor and a mechanical propulsion device. He was also known as the Australian Leonardo da Vinci for his mechanical ideas, which included pre World War I drawings for a helicopter design based on the principle of the boomerang and his research into the polarisation of light; he also spent much of his life attempting to achieve perpetual motion. In his old age, he went back to his birthplace, where he worked on inventions further.

Unaipon died in the <u>Tailem</u> <u>Bend</u> Hospital South Australia on 7 February 1967 and was buried in the Raukkan (formerly Point McLeay) Mission Cemetery. He was survived by a son.

Source: Mostly Wikipedia: To read more:

David Unaipon - Wikipedia (Ctrl and Click) and my own knowledge. Ed

MOVIE REVIEW

IF other readers are like me, a fan of movie great John Wayne, should watch, or rewatch his final movie, THE SHOOTIST.



It is the story of an aging sheriff turned gunslinger with cancer who awaits his fate in Carson City in 1901. The end is the way he wanted to go.

Watching Wayne during filming, it was quite evident that not all was acting. Wayne had lung cancer and a few years earlier had his left lung and two ribs removed. Filming had been delayed sometimes for him to recover from the exertion needed during filming.

The Shootist can be viewed on youtude:

(93) The Shootist (1976) **** Full Movie**** - YouTube (Ctrl and Click)

John Wayne's **real** name was Marion Robert Morrison,

born on 26th of May 1907 in Winterset, Iowa and died of stomach cancer on the 11th of June 1979 in Los Angeles, California, aged 72.



I included this typical Aussie Christmas carol, sung to the tune of Jingle Bells, in a newsletter quite a few years ago. We have many new members join since, so I think it is an appropriate time to do it again. See next page:

For those of us Aussies who will not be in Australia for Christmas, here is a little reminder of what it is like, sung to the tune of Jingle Bells

Dashing through the bush, in a dusty Holden ute Kicking up the dust, Esky in the boot, Kelpie by my side, singing Christmas songs, Its summer time and I am in my, singlet, shorts and thongs.

Chorus

Oh! Jingle bells, jingle bells jingle all the way, Christmas in Australia on a scorching summer's day, Oh! jingle bells, jingle bells, Christmas time is beaut, Oh what fun it is to ride, in a dusty Holden ute.

Engine's getting hot, we dodge the kangaroos, The swaggie climbs aboard, he is welcome too. All the family is there, sitting by the pool, Christmas day in the Aussie way, by the bar-b-que

Chorus

Come the afternoon, grandpa has a doze, The kids and Uncle Bruce, are swimming in their clothes, The time comes round to go, we take a family snap, And pack the car and all shoot through Before the washing up. Oh!





these

Chorus

For our international members, a few explanations on some of the Aussie words used in Aussie Jingle Bells:

words used in Aussie	Jingle Bells:
1. Holden	Australian brand GM car.
2.Ute	Otherwise known as a pick-up or truck.
3. Esky	What Aussie's call a cooler.
4. Kelpie	Australian working dog.
5. Thongs	Footwear, not what some women wear as underwear days.
6. Beaut	Aussie way of saying `terrific'.
7. Swaggie	Hobo or vagabond.



Home of the Angeles City RSL Sub Branch





















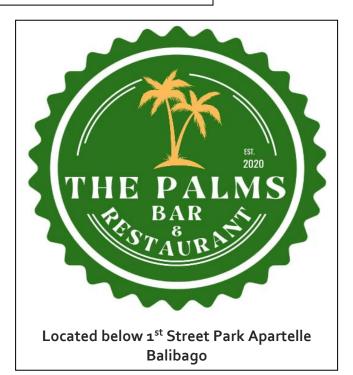


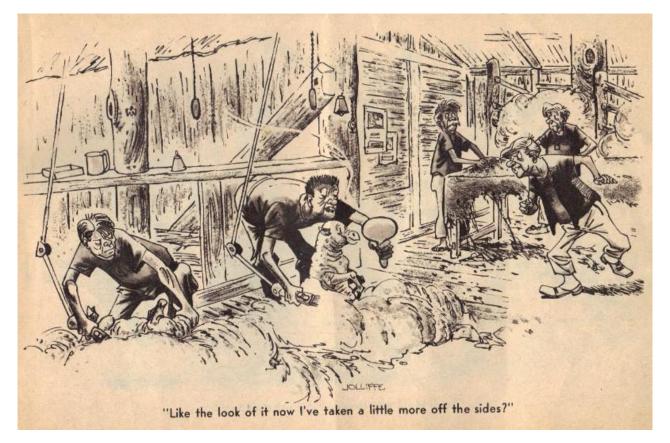
R@SE FIELDS DENTAL CARE

DR. ALELI B. DE GUZMAN | DR. HANNA B. DE GUZMAN

149 FIELDS AVE. WALKING ST. BALIBAGO ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA, PHILIPPINES, 2009









RSL

Angeles City Sub Branch Philippines

OUR BANKING DETAILS

PHILIPPINES TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER Beneficiary Bank = China Banking Corporation Manila Philippines SWIFT address = CHBKPHMM Beneficiary Customer=ANGELES CITY RSL Account Number = 281-028301-5 Branch = SM CLARK CITY

IN AUSTRALIA

Commonwealth Bank (CBA) of Australia Acc Name: Returned Services League Angeles City Sub Branch BSB 062905 Account # 10153195 AU\$ 1 = ₱37 until end of 2024

> OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE:

> > ₱1000.00

ANNUALLY for

One or three years

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Vincent Resort and 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 O (zero) before the number

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE" Lest We Forget

SERVICE & AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM JOINING IS EASY!



Service membership - available to anyone who is or was a member of the Australian Defence Force with at least one day's service (fulltime equivalent) OR anyone who is or was a member of an Allied Armed Force with at least 6 months service.

Affiliate membership - available to anyone who has a close family member who is or was eligible for Service membership. Also available to anyone who works or has worked, with at least 6 months service, in the emergency services.

Appropriate proof of service must accompany this application for both Service and Affiliate membership. *Mandatory Field

ALL APPLICANTS

SERVICE APPLICANTS ONLY

*Previous membership: Yes 📃 No 📃	ADF Allied Armed Forces
*If yes, State: Sub-Branch name:	If allied, which country:
*Sub-Branch joining:	Service Number/PMKeyS Number:
*Membership Category: Service Affiliate	Service Arm: Navy Army Air Force
*Period: 1 year 3 years	Current/Discharge Rank:
Member Details	Unit/Ship:
*Title: Mr Mrs Ms Ms Miss Mx Other	Date Enlisted:
If other, please specify e.g. Colonel:	Date Discharged:
*Given Name(s):	Service Awards:
*Last Name:	Service Locations:
Post Nominals:	AFFILIATE APPLICANTS ONLY
*Gender: Male Female Other	Please detail your affiliated person's service below.
*Date of Birth:	Their Name:
Residential Address	Service: Australia Allied Armed Force
*Street: Line 1	Country:
Line 2	Their Service Number/PMKeyS Number:
*City/Suburb:	Their Service Arm: Navy Army Air Force
*Post Code:	Your Relationship:
Postal Address (if different)	OR
*Street: Line 1	
Line 2	Police Fire Brigade (CFA & FRV) Ambulance SES
*City/Suburb:	
*Post Code:	Declaration and Agreement
Telephone	I declare that:
*Mobile:	1. The information provided is true and correct.
	2. I agree to uphold the constitution of the League and its By-Laws
*Email Address:	 I understand that as a member I will receive information about RSL events, activities, offers and communications from the RSL and its business partners.
Identification	
*Type: *ID Number:	*Signature of Applicant:
*State: *Expiry:	*Date:
Emergency Contact	Privacy Statement
*Name:	The personal information provided on this form will be used in accordance
*Phone: *Relationship:	with the RSL Victoria privacy policy. This policy is freely available and accessible via rslvic.com.au

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM *Mandatory Field
*Have you been a member of the RSL before? Yes No
*Sub-Branch joining:
*Membership Type: Social Community
Member Details
*Title: Mr Mrs Ms Miss Other:
*Given Name(s):
*Last Name:
*Male Female Other:
*Date of Birth:
Postal Address
*Street:
*Town/Suburb:
*Post Code:
Telephone
Home: (
*Email Address:
Emergency Contact
*Name:
*Phone:
I understand that as a member of the RSL I will receive information and updates relating to RSL events, activities and offers from the RSL and its business partners. I will always have the opportunity to unsubscribe. For the RSL privacy policy please visit rslvic.com.au
Yes, I would like to receive additional material relating specifically to gaming machines and related activities.
*Signature:
OFFICE USE ONLY
Date Application Approved: Card Issued: Yes No
Membership Number:

ONE LAST THING

Most of our Australian readers of our vintage will have read in their youth a cartoon created by Jolliffe:



"You wouldn't think a drop of cooking sherry would make all that difference to a bucket of swill."

