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# RSL

Angeles City Sub Branch  
Philippines

NEWSLETTER # 77

August 2013

IN THIS ISSUE

## President's Report

by James Curtis-Smith – President



Vietnam Veteran's Day on Sunday August 18 was very wet but a meaningful and great day of remembrance for the Sub Branch. At the service at Clark Veteran's

Cemetery we were honoured with the presence of His Excellency Ambassador Bill Tweddell, the Defence Attache and two Assistant Defence Attaches all of the Australian Embassy at Manila. The Ambassador, as a former Ambassador to Vietnam, delivered a very meaningful address and which was appreciated by all who attended.

Our lunch and activity at the Ponderosa was again well attended and my thanks to all who attended and particularly to the Ponderosa staff and management, our Secretary Dallas Drake, Treasurer Ron Parrott, Kooka and Thunder on the door, and Bob Barnes with Peter O'Donnell who conducted the raffle and auction. A big thanks also to the business houses that donated prizes, and of course to our kindred service organization, the VFW for the loan of their tents and equipment at the cemetery.

Of note was a donation back to the memorabilia of the Sub Branch of the

mounted M17 rifle and which was purchased by members Chris and Phil from their own funds at the auction.

Of note this month, I make special mention of Tony Dizon, Barangay Councillor at Sapang Biabis, Mabalacat and also President of Mabalacat Rotary Club. It came to my attention in another capacity, that Tony of his own philanthropic and care for his fellow man gave care and accommodation to an Australian man in his 30's who is mentally retarded and was found penniless and homeless in the Barangay earlier this month. Tony did not know this man at all, but took him into his home and cared for him for nearly a month, and was instrumental through the Australian Government in expatriating the man back to Australia. This care for a foreigner stranger by Tony has truly impressed me.

On Saturday August 31, the Sub Branch will be conducting a children's medical mission at Caluluan, near Concepcion. Transportation for members will be available from the Ponderosa departing 6.45am sharp. If you can take your vehicle and have a seat or two available to assist, please also be at the Ponderosa before 6.45am. *Continues Page 2 >>*

## WELCOME new members

We warmly welcome the  
following new members:

Daryl Williams (Tarlac PI) \* Ross Addy (A/C)

Francis Stobie (A/C) \* Jeffrey Clark (QLD)

Ian Reeve-Smith (QLD) \* Scott Chambers (MNL)

Terence Woods (A/C) \* Barry Truex (A/C)

Atiq Mir (A/C) \* Darrin Kitchener (Qld)

Trevor Hudson (A/C) \* Bill Parry (QLD)

James Price \* Kevin McCreesh

WELCOME Back to Roger Limle

## DONATE BLOOD

### We Need Your Blood!

Help us to maintain our blood supplies by donating blood at the AUF Hospital Red Cross Blood Bank and credit to our RSL. Doesn't take much time and it will be appreciated.

At the Sub Branch Committee meeting on Tuesday September 3 (1.30pm) the Committee will be settling the program for the Australia Day Fiesta 2014. If you would like give some input to this planning, member of the RSL or not, you are invited to attend and have your say.

### VOTING IN THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTION

**Southern Cross shuttle bus will provide a service for Australian Elections voters. Bus Leaves Brass Knob September 4th at 0800 hrs and Ponderosa at 0815 direct to Embassy. Bus will wait till all have voted and brings you back to Angeles. Only P550.00 return.**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL  
09279635347 OR 045-892-5475**

### VIETNAM VETERANS DAY REPORT

by Lee Townsend – RSL Member

A small crowd of about 50 attended the service in dismal weather that turned into steady rain for the rest of the day. Those attending were the Australian Ambassador, His Excellence Bill Tweddell, the Military Attaché, a contingent from the Australian Embassy, our President Jim and representatives from our allies, Vietnam Veterans and friends.

Ambassador Tweddell was previously posted to Vietnam as Ambassador and was instrumental in assisting in the recovery of Australia personnel that were "Missing In Action", (MIA) during the Vietnam War. He also gave an excellent account of the Battle of Long Tan. It was a most interesting address and to me accurate in detail.

Our own RSL Angeles member HONORARY CHAPLAIN RAYMOND JONES led us in prayers with wreaths being laid and flags lowered during the Last Post. All in all a shorter version of the service was held due to the inclement weather but it was a very good service.

We retired for the afternoon to the Ponderosa Hotel where a substantial meal was served and the amber liquid

flowed until stumps at 1700 hrs. During the afternoon raffles were drawn and the bulldust flowed thick with a chorus or two of old military songs coming from one particular table.

The Ponderosa bar then came into action and the enjoyment continued.

In summary we honoured those that never returned and those that served. The commemorative service was followed by the traditional good fellowship of the Australian RSL.

Lest we forget.

Lee.T



*President Jim Curtis-Smith addresses the service with Ambassador Bill Tweddell at rear centre*

**Below** is a poem from a very good mate of mine, **Bob Lange**, who is an unrecognized poet, and it seems appropriate that this poem follows our Vietnam Veterans Report:

### JUST A YOUNG BLOKE

When I was a young bloke I thought I'd been around, I might have been a country boy, but I'd been to Brisbane town.

I sold spare parts and petrol, couldn't see much future there, So I thought I'd join the army, to see how I would fare.

They sent me to Kapooka to learn the soldiers ways, And then I spent the next three months up in Shoalwater Bay.

I met a Colonel while up there- he smiled and shook my hand, And asked me what I thought about the war in Vietnam.

I told him that the communists must never reach our shore, And if I could help to stop him, I'd be proud to go to war.

I was young and full of eagerness, keen to prove I was a man, After all, we had as hero's D Company at Long Tan.

When the posting order finally came, I told my Dad and Mum, That I was going

off to war, and make them proud I was their son. I spent a year in Vietnam, living on the fault line, Why should I justify what I did, the decision wasn't mine.

It was a government that sent us, then left us high and dry,

They didn't seem to worry that in wars some people die,

When we came home our world had changed, it wasn't like before,

And the diggers are still paying the price for someone else's war.



*Wreaths with the cemetery in the background*



## ANOTHER WHEELCHAIR DONATION

by Greg Mann – Vice President

**Arjay Pagulao lives in Brgy. Amsic, Angeles City. He is 4 years old.**

He looks like he is about 2 years old because he was born with Cerebral Palsy and he will never walk.

He is the youngest of six children. His father is a jeepney driver and his mother is a housewife – she is disabled too.

On August 12th the RSL's charity fund gave Arjay a wheelchair to help make the whole family's life a little bit better.

Note the big smile on Mom's face! The family and Brgy. Captain Gerom Costales send their profound thanks to all of us.



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**Tuesday 3rd September \* 1.30PM... Australia Day Fiesta Plus COMMITTEE Meeting \* Social Tuesday 2.00pm PONDEROSA \* 4.00pm BRASS KNOB \* CHERRYS \* STAMPEDE**

**FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER FAT BOYS GOLF MIMOSA**

**SATURDAY 7TH CHARITY RUGBY CHALLENGER FIELD**

**Tuesday 10th September \* 1.30PM WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETS AT PONDEROSA \* 2.00pm Social Tuesday Ponderosa \* 4.00pm Valhalla \* Honky Tonk \* T.I.**

**Tuesday 17th September \* MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 2.00pm Ponderosa \* 4.00pm Bodyshop \* Shooters \* LaBamba**

**Tuesday 24th September \* 1.30pm Australia Day Fiesta Committee \* 2.00pm Social Tuesday Ponderosa**

**4.00pm Geckos \* Paradise \* Players**



## Reminder

by Dallas Drake – Secretary

Dallas has been asked to organise a day trip to Corridor Island for the 11th of November.

To do that, he will require expressions of interest from members who would

wish to go. At this stage, initial estimates show a cost of between ₱2,000 to ₱3,000 maximum, depending on numbers. If there was a good turn-up it could get down to around ₱1,500. As per good business practices, a non-returnable deposit of ₱1,000 per head would be asked. A group of 14 would be ideal. Expressions of interest please to Dallas or Ron Parrott ASAP.

## TIP TRAINING ON-LINE

The result to do on-line training course for welfare 1 & 2 has resulted in ten nominations from our sub-branch members.

All applications have been sent to Branch C/- Jeff Jackson for ESO approval and final submission to Angela Raven at TIP Veteran Centre in Sale Victoria.

We expect each member will receive a personal access code to log-in and commence the training modules as their personal time will permit.

Thank-you to all who nominated, and best wishes in your endeavors. (Dallas)

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### Gold Coast man found guilty of impersonating Vietnam veteran

A 69-year-old man from Queensland's Gold Coast has been found guilty of falsely representing himself as a war veteran.

John Anthony Hines claimed he was part of a deep cover clandestine unit in Vietnam, secretly serving for 15 years.

He marched in last year's Anzac Day service in Brisbane wearing what the prosecution described as "a chest of medals".

But today Chief Magistrate Brendan Butler found it was a ruse.

He declared Hines guilty of the Commonwealth offences of falsely representing himself as a returned soldier and improperly wearing service decorations not conferred on him.

Hines was fined \$500, given a two-year good behaviour bond with a \$1,000 surety, and told to seek psychiatric treatment.

Veterans welcome decision.

Outside the court, Vietnam veterans welcomed the court findings. "He's walking in the blood of all the blokes that never came home," said one veteran.

"If you want to look at someone who was a complete insult, this guy was," said another.

Hines' brother George Edward Carr is due to face court on similar charges later this month.

**I AM BEING CYNICAL, BUT IS THIS AN ELECTION CARROT** Tuesday 30 July 2013 VA066

Changes to indexation of military

superannuation payments

The Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowdon and the Minister for Defence Materiel Mike Kelly today announced changes to the way in which military superannuation retirement pay will be indexed for the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits (DFRB) scheme and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) scheme.

The schemes were closed in 1972 and 1991, respectively.

From 1 July 2014, payments to military superannuants aged 65 and over, within the DFRB and DFRDB schemes, will be indexed to the higher of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI).

The estimated cost over four years is \$34 million. Currently, there are some 56,500 superannuants in the

two schemes and approximately 26,700 are aged 65 and over who will benefit from this announcement.

This measure strikes the right balance by assisting many of our older military retirees while being fiscally responsible in the current economic climate.

PBLCI was first used as an indexation factor for the age pension in September 2009 and the Government has decided to include it in the indexation of military superannuation retirement pay for the two schemes.

The Government acknowledges the advocacy of ex-service organisations *Continues Page 5 >>*

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on this issue and in particular the Returned and Services League of Australia and the Defence Force Welfare Association.

Today's announcement builds on a comprehensive program of support and recognition by the Australian Government for our veteran community since 2007.

The Government will continue its commitment to engage with service and ex-service organisations to consider the benefits and support available to our current and former service personnel.

NB Of course any recipient of DFRB or DFRDB will be pleased about this MAJOR back-flip by the current government, who stated previously, especially minister Warren Snowden, who said that there would NEVER be a change.

**ADDITIONAL** The Coalition has also revealed their policy but the difference is, they have rejected the CPI completely and will align the increases to the MTAW ( male total average weekly earnings ) and be available at age 55 instead of Labor's 65 age requirement.

The Palmer United Party has also released their policy on military superannuation and veterans in general and it doesn't look too bad either. It includes backpay. They say it is fundable by cutting back on the \$5.2 billion foreign aid we send each year.

Not too hard to guess which policies are more attractive to retired military members affected.

## CALLING ALL GOLFERS

A CALL FROM SECRETARY DALLAS DRAKE

WE request all Golfing members to join in the **Charity Golf Tournament FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER**. The RSL should try to make several teams and register at least the Tuesday prior to the event.

At this stage I do not know the costs , but Buggy Caddy Green Fees plus meals and drinks will see around P5k being needed, remember it is a charity event that we will benefit substantially from for our local efforts.

Maybe Gary can pass the message to Balibago Social Golfers.

## The Hearing Aid Program Continues To Be Fully Booked

We just made an appointment for the 27th patient to receive a hearing aid. We are giving 1 per child. We are now booked, at 3 per week, until 9/5/13. (this means in Australian date format 5/9/13)

Our last batch of 11 children came from the Bulacan Disabled Federation - 3 boys aged 4, 2 boys aged 5, 2 girls aged 5, a boy 7, and 3 girls aged 11, 12 and 14. Their parents were ecstatic! They all had medical reports completed at the Bulacan clinic and all had profound hearing loss. Most could not yet speak.

The children didn't quite know what was going on as we told the parents about the program in conjunction with the Lion's Club and the Henson Ear Clinic - but they knew it was good. They were smiling along with their Moms and Dads. It will even be better to see them smile after their custom ear molds are done and they can hear for the first time!

The Lion's Club of Australia provides the hearing aids and the Henson Ear Clinic provides "at cost" services to these indigent children. The RSL members and supporting businesses finance and manage the program. Thanks to all for your continued support of this life changing program.

**Greg Mann, RSL - Vice President**



## Sydney man admits sending abusive letters to dead Afghanistan veterans' families

By Thomas Oriti Updated Mon Aug 5, 2013 2:02pm AEST

A man accused of sending abusive letters to the families of Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan has formally pleaded guilty

in a Sydney court.

Man Monis, who also uses the name Sheik Haron, sent the letters between

November 2007 and August 2009.

A court has previously heard the letters criticised Australia's involvement in

Afghanistan and labelled the soldiers murderers.

Monis sent letters to the families of seven soldiers killed in action, as well as one man who died in the 2009 Marriott Hotel bombing in Indonesia.

Bree Till received a letter in March 2009, less than a fortnight after her husband Brett died in Southern Afghanistan.

It opened with condolences, before becoming abusive. "This man accusing my husband of being a child killer whilst dictating how I should raise my children," she said outside court today.

"The fact that there was any question as to whether this was right or wrong, that was difficult."

Monis has pleaded guilty to 12 counts of using a postal service to offend on the grounds of recklessness.

His co-accused, Amirah Droudis, has also pleaded guilty to one count of aiding and abetting Monis, after she sent an item of mail in May 2008.

Monis gained notoriety by chaining himself to a railing outside a Sydney court in 2009 in protest against the charges he was facing. In February, he also lost a High Court challenge to the charges, after claiming they were unconstitutional.

The case had been seen as an important test of the implied right to freedom of political speech in the Constitution.

Monis left court today with two fingers in the air, signifying the peace sign.

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## AN ARTICLE ABOUT FILIPINO-AUSTRALIANS (BY PAUL ROSENZWEIG)

### TOP END FILIPINOS IN THE 'AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE' (AIF)

#### Part 1 : 3051 Private William Gar

Carlos Ga (1854-1931) was a sailor and diver from the Dinagat Islands south of Leyte Gulf, at the very northeastern tip of Mindanao, north of Surigao Del Norte. He came to Thursday Island in about 1870 diving for pearlshell. He married Mary Anne Bunyan (1864-1909) from Wales, and seven children were born on Thursday Island, all christened with the surname 'Ga'.

In around 1892 he came to Port Darwin as a diver for pearlshell and bêche-de-mer (sea cucumber), also known by the Malay name trepang. A further four children were born before Mary Anne died in 1909. By 1911, there were 31 pearling boats operating from Darwin employing 138 men, and there were 52 Filipinos living in Darwin. The four sons of Carlos and Mary Anne who lived to adulthood all volunteered for the AIF in 1915.

#### William Ga (1891-1916)

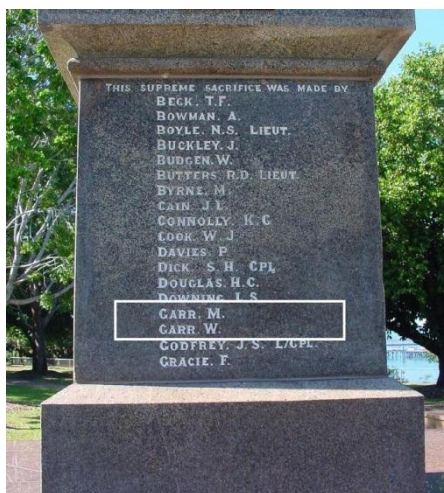
William had been born on Thursday Island on 26 November 1891, and in Darwin was a labourer with the Public Works Department. After he volunteered for the AIF, he sailed to Brisbane on the SS Eastern on 17 August 1915. He was enlisted in Brisbane on 27 August, aged 23, giving his surname as 'Gar'.

He served with the 4th Pioneer Battalion AIF at Tel-el-Kebir, and then entered the line near Armentières in June 1916. The 4th Pioneers were engaged on defensive works at Bois Grenier, Fleurbaix and Pozières. In November, they were working on the Decauville Tramlines on the Somme east of Albert, between Mametz and Longueval, establishing cuttings, plate-laying, ballasting and regrading.

Private William Gar was killed by a high explosive shell on 30 November 1916. On the 'Particulars' form for the Australian War Memorial, his father Carlos morbidly noted: "One of 4 brothers all volunteered. All dead or disabled" (in fact, two were killed and one was wounded; the fourth did not serve overseas).

#### Commemoration

William Garr's grave and headstone are within the Longueval Road Cemetery in France. William's brother, 428 Private Matthew Garr, was killed on Anzac Ridge on the Ypres Salient in Belgium on 29 September 1917, aged 27; his name is



is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium.

At the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, William and Matthew Garr's names are honoured in the Commemorative Area of the Roll of Honour, panels 174 and 143 respectively.

The names of Matthew and William Garr were included on a Public Works Department Honour Roll, which was unveiled by the Administrator Dr John Gilruth on 13 May 1916.

They are both also listed on the Soldiers' Monument (Darwin Cenotaph) which was unveiled in 'Liberty Square' opposite Government House on 24 April 1921, honouring the Northern Territory men who died on war service. In addition, in 1968 the Darwin City Council named 'Garr Street' in the suburb of Moil in honour of Matthew and William.

These Top End Filipinos who served under the Slouch Hat and 'Rising Sun' should not be forgotten.

Paul A Rosenzweig

paul.rosenzweig@hotmail.com

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

Editors note. Paul is currently assisting the Philippine Honorary Consul in Darwin to put together a history of the Filipino-Australians from Darwin who volunteered for service in World War 1. He is also working on a project to document the Filipino-Australians from Darwin who were killed during the first Japanese air raid on Darwin on 19 February

1942. We look forward to further articles from Paul.



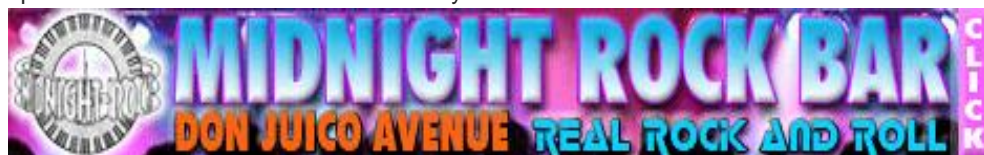
#### Sergeant Stubby (decorated war dog)

Sergeant Stubby (1916 or 1917 – April 4, 1926), was the most decorated war dog of World War I and the only dog to be promoted to sergeant through combat. America's first war dog, Stubby served 18 months 'over there' and participated in seventeen battles on the Western Front. He saved his regiment from surprise mustard gas attacks, found and comforted the wounded, and even once caught a German spy by the seat of his pants (holding him there until American Soldiers found him). Back home his exploits were front page news of every major newspaper.

Stubby was a stray pit bull type dog that appeared at Yale Field in New Haven, Connecticut while a group of soldiers were training. The dog hung around as the men drilled and one soldier, Corporal Robert Conroy, developed a fondness for the mutt. When it came time for the outfit to ship out, Conroy hid Stubby on board the troop ship. The story goes that upon discovery by Conroy's commanding officer, Stubby saluted him as he had been trained to in camp, and the commanding officer was so impressed that he allowed the dog to stay on board.

Stubby served with the 102nd Infantry, 26th (Yankee) Division in the trenches in France for 18 months and participated in four offensives and 17 battles. He entered combat on February 5, 1918 at Chemin des Dames, north of Soissons, and was under constant fire, day and night for over a month. In April 1918, during a raid to take Schieprey, Stubby was wounded in the foreleg by the retreating Germans throwing hand grenades. He was sent to the rear for

*Continues Page 7 >>*





convalescence, and as he had done on the front was able to improve morale. When he recovered from his wounds, Stubby returned to the trenches.

After being gassed himself, Stubby learned to warn his unit of poison gas attacks, located wounded soldiers in no man's land, and — since he could hear the whine of incoming artillery shells before humans could — became very adept at letting his unit know when to duck for cover. He was solely responsible for capturing a German spy in the Argonne. Following the retaking of Château-Thierry by the US, the thankful women of the town made Stubby a chamois coat on which were pinned his many medals. He also helped free a French town from the Germans. At the end of the war, Conroy smuggled Stubby home.

After returning home, Stubby became a celebrity and marched in, and normally led many parades across the country. He met Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren G. Harding. Starting in 1921, he attended Georgetown University Law Center with Conroy, and became the Georgetown Hoyas' team mascot. He would be given the football at halftime and would nudge the ball around the field to the amusement of the fans.

#### A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR TIME

The Thai mother-in-law walks into her daughter's new house in the village and finds her Farang (foreign) son-in-law furious and packing his suitcase.

"What happen?" she asked.

"What happened? - I'll tell you what happened! I sent an e-mail to my wife Kai saying that I was coming home from Australia today. I got here and guess what I found? My wife, KAI, yes your daughter, in our bed with a Thai man! This is the end of our marriage and I am leaving Thailand forever!"

"Relax, relax!" says mother-in-law, "Mistake, sure! Something is not right about this story. KAI never would do something so stupid! Wait... I check to see what really happen."

Moments later she comes back with a big smile. "See, I told you there must be simple explanation....."

KAI never receive your email "

#### NOTICE RSL ANGELS CITY SUB BRANCH IS LOOKING FOR A CHILI COOKING TEAM

**WHEN** - NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

**LOCATION** – L A UNION.

**THEME** - COAST GUARD MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER CHILI

**START TIME** -0830 HRS

**RSL WILL SPONSOR \* SEE DALLAS FOR FULL DETAILS**

#### THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE FAT BOY 10's CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are keeping all event costs the same as the last 2 years thanks to the help and support of the Mimosa Golf and Country Club and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining this year's event.

**PLEASE CIRCULATE WIDELY**

#### EVENT DETAILS

**VENUE** Mimosa Golf and Country Club, Clark, Pampanga  
**REGISTRATION** From 7-45am – Tee Times from 9-00am

**DATE** Friday 6th September 2013.

**FORMAT** Texas Scramble – Teams of 4 **COSTS**

Pls note we will charge one fee of PHP 4800 Inclusive for this event.

If for any reason players cannot make the awards dinner then we ask that they make the 900 PHP charge a donation to charity.

PHP 3900 per player

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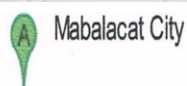
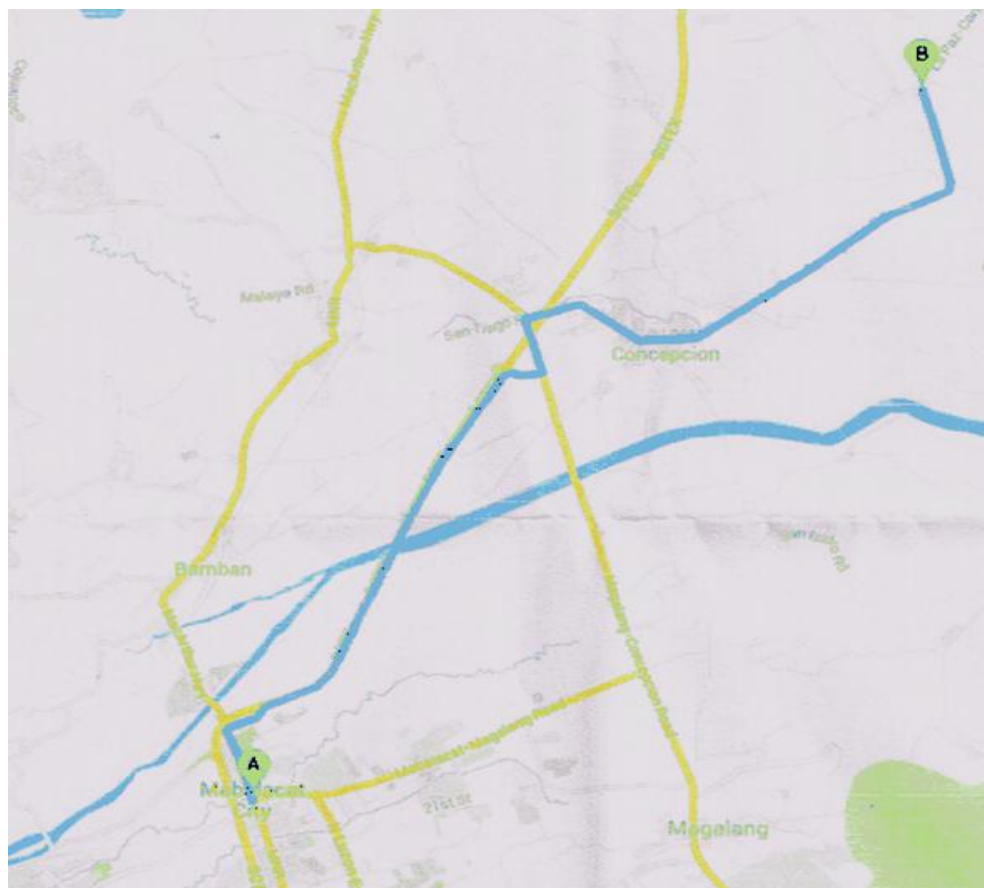
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## Next Medical Mission

The directions to this Medical Mission destination are a bit complex, that is why we are providing a map and also a written set of directions. For those with their own cars and wish to drive there, and are a bit dubious about the directions, should form up at the Ponderosa Hotel and form a convoy. All others be at the Ponderosa by 6:45 am sharp (departure time) to take the Ponderosa vehicle to the site.



1. Head **west** toward **MacArthur Hwy/MacArthur Highway** go 2 m  
total 2 m
- ➡ 2. Take the 1st right onto **MacArthur Hwy/MacArthur Highway** go 1.9 km  
About 3 mins total 1.9 km
- ➡ 3. Turn right to merge onto **Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expy** go 10.8 km  
About 7 mins total 12.6 km
- ➡ 4. Take the exit go 400 m  
total 13.1 km
5. Continue straight go 550 m  
total 13.6 km
- ⬅ 6. Turn left onto **Magalang Concepcion Rd** go 1.4 km  
About 2 mins total 15.0 km
- ➡ 7. Take the 1st right onto **Provincial Rd** *LEON GAS STATION* go 1.3 km  
About 1 min total 16.2 km
8. Continue onto **L. Cortez St** go 1.5 km  
About 1 min total 17.8 km
- ⬅ 9. Slight left onto **A. Mabini St** *SEE RSL DIRECTION SIGN* go 1.2 km  
About 1 min total 19.0 km
10. Continue onto **La Paz-Concepcion Rd** go 9.0 km  
About 8 mins total 28.0 km







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