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RSL

Angeles City Sub Branch
Philippines

NEWSLETTER # 78

September 2013

President's Report

by James Curtis-Smith – President



An urgent request for blood through our blood register coordinator Lindsay Drury on Wednesday afternoon (September 25), and his marvelous effort in being to

supply donors (unfortunately not enough to supply all the blood required), leads me to plead with as many as can that read our newsletter, RSL members or not, and those who you can persuade, to support our Blood Drive this coming October 26.

For some years now, Lindsay has been working with the Blood Group at Angeles University Foundation Medical Center (AUF) in maintaining a blood register for this Sub Branch. We have now combined our blood register with that of the VFW, still under the direction of Lindsay and a computer data base has been created merging the two previous separate registers.

As most of you are aware there is no such thing as a national blood bank in the Philippines, and when required it is often difficult to get correct blood types and is very expensive. Blood donated by our members and contacts provides us with a credit at the AUF which is available to our

members and families friends and contacts when required.

There are strict requirements to be eligible to donate blood, (I am too old !!), however even if not eligible to give blood we encourage you and your families and friends to register, so that your blood type can be recorded, just in case you may one day require blood.

The Blood Drive will be held on the morning of Saturday, October 26 commencing at 8 am until noon. Please make the effort to attend if at all possible. I was tickled pink when I discovered my blood type a few years ago as it was the first time I got an A+ for anything.

Our Australia Day sub- committee has now been formerly convened under Vice President Greg Mann and I hope you will all give him and the committee all the support we can. At the moment we are putting together the prizes for the giant raffle. We are hoping this year to have really good prizes of substance and value, and if you can help with suggestions, donations or subsidized prizes please let us know.

Our next Children's Medical Mission on Saturday October 5 and which is at Porac. Usual arrangements re-departure from Ponderosa at 7.00am and a mud map appears elsewhere in this issue. If you have space in your car could you please drop by the Ponderosa at about 6.45am.

Finally at the last General Meeting it was decided that all our meetings, be it General (3rd Tuesday of the month), Committee (1st Tuesday) will now commence at 2pm.

That's enough.

WELCOME new members

We welcome the following new members: Pete Silvernale (A/C) * Robert Stirling (A/C) * Ron Tal (A/C) * Robert Cowie (A/C) * Colin McManus (NSW) * Anthony Cullen (A/C) * Lafayette Donaldson (A/C) * Allen Hardy (A/C) * Thomas Hayes (A/C) * Laurie Nagele (NSW) * Ronald Young (A/C) **Welcome back:** Edward McCarthy (A/C) * Ricardo (Ric) Balatbat. (A/C) *

Welcome back: Edward McCarthy (A/C) *

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.

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RSL EVENTS SCHEDULE OCTOBER

Phillies Sports & Grill Raffle every Saturday at 6.00 PM.

Weekly **CHARITY** Raffle DRAW NOW EVERY **Wednesday at Emotions Nite Club** at 6.00 PM.

Tuesday 1st October * 2.00PM... Australia Day Fiesta Plus COMMITTEE Meeting *
Social Tuesday 2.00pm PONDEROSA * 4.00pm Moons * Robbies * Sit Back Relax

MEDICAL MISSION SATURDAY 5TH Porac. 0800 hrs

Tuesday 8th October 2.00PM WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETS AT PONDEROSA * 2.00
Social Tuesday Ponderosa
4.00pm FRIENDS *, ROCKING HORSE * LOST IN ASIA

WELFARE TRAINING 14TH-15TH. TIP TRAINING 16th -18th

Tuesday 15th October * MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING * 2.00pm Social Tuesday
Ponderosa * 4.00pm SILLY HAT* GREEN BOTTLE * HANG OUT

Tuesday 22nd October * 2.00 PM Australia Day Fiesta Committee * 2.00pm Social
Tuesday Ponderosa *
4.00pm T&A * BABY DOLLS * HAPPY ROCK.

Tuesday 29th October * 2.00PM Social Tuesday Ponderosa * 4.00pm Garfields * Drill
Shack * Perimeter * Det 5.

Tuesday 29th SUBIC BAY BAR HOP

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VETERANS DAY 2013

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CEMETERY MEMORIAL
PLAZA AREA




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FORGOTTEN VETERANS!



NOVEMBER 11, 2013
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

JOIN US AT POST 2485 FOR OUR ANNUAL
PICNIC AND RAFFLE FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY DALLAS

1. I have to change Corregidor trip to **Wednesday 13th November**, BOOK NOW.
2. Membership deal is now anyone new from 1 October will be paying P800.00 only and the period covered will be until Dec 2014.
3. Australia Day Fiesta Committee is looking for any assistance to help make 2014 great.
4. Raffle prizes wanted for charity raffle 2014. **Generous donors please help !!!**
5. **Welfare officer Training** commences Monday October 14th 0900 hrs at club rooms.
6. **Pension Officer Training** commences Wednesday October 16th at 0900 hrs. All interested members are invited
7. Chili cooking team wanted for La Union Nov 30th

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O+	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
A-	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
A+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
B-	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
B+	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
AB-	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
AB+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

We have confirmed with the AUF and the VFW that we are having a Blood Typing/Donor Day at the VFW on **Saturday October 26th 2013.**

We need a reasonable turnout to make it worthwhile for the AUF Red Cross nurses to come over and set it up. It will start at **8am and close at 12noon.**

IT'S FREE.

Wives and family are definitely welcome. Even kids should be typed.

WE need to emphasize the point that people should come and be typed and be put on the register even if they can't give blood - the importance of this only comes to light when someone gets hurt and needs blood. If they are on our Blood Register and we know their blood type we can save hours of searching by just looking up the Register and calling people. Of course it's important for us to maintain a high unit credit with the AUF for the future.

Blood can cost anywhere between **P5000 to P10,000** a unit if bought privately.

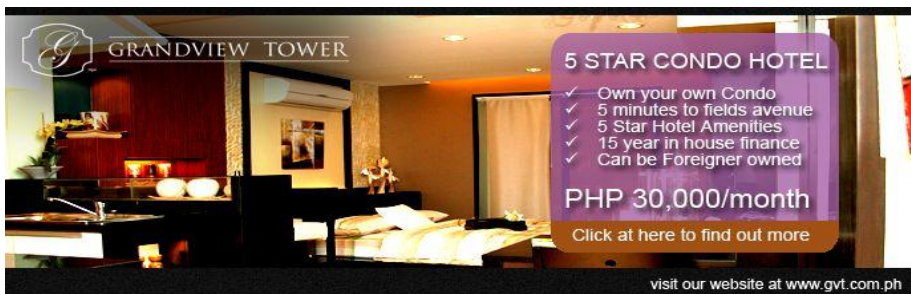
This service is FREE - the only expense the patient will incur is the **P350** AUF handling fee and the blood transport costs.

WE need a good RSL roll up as the VFW and local Rotary will be attending.

DON'T FORGET we also have our **WEBSITE, FACEBOOK AND BLOG** for members to peruse as well as this Newsletter. The other sites offer just about instant notifications whereas the newsletter is a once a month publication.

Go to www.rslangelescity.com
<http://www.facebook.com/rslacity>

In addition to conducting the **Medical Mission** last month we donated four nebulizers and six wheelchairs, treated 548 children with de-worming medicine, made appointments for four children with hearing impairments to get hearing aids.



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VETERAN PENSION RATE RISE ON 20 SEPTEMBER

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson announced new pension and income support payment rates for some 290,000 veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia would apply from tomorrow, 20 September.

The first full pension payments at the new rates will be on 17 October 2013.

The table below highlights the key changes to fortnightly rates.

Pension	Old Rate ₁ (per fortnight)	New Rate ₁ (per fortnight)	Increase
Service Pension—single	\$808.40	\$827.10	\$18.70
Service Pension—couples	\$1,218.80 couple	\$1,246.80 couple	\$28.00
	\$609.40 each	\$623.40 each	\$14.00
War Widow(er)'s Pension	\$820.70	\$840.20	\$19.50
Income Support Supplement	\$241.50	\$247.60	\$6.10
Special Rate (TPI) of Disability Pension	\$1,238.20	\$1,269.00	\$30.80
Intermediate Rate of Disability Pension	\$840.40	\$861.30	\$20.90
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	\$683.70	\$700.70	\$17.00
100 per cent General Rate of Disability Pension	\$440.00	\$451.00	\$11.00

1– These are the maximum rates of payment and include any clean energy supplement payable.

Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September taking account of changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

A full list of pension rates are available on www.dva.gov.au or by calling 133 254 or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia.

CLARIFICATION AND WARNING

YESTERDAY, Saturday 21st of September, RSL Angeles City Secretary Dallas Drake was reliably informed he was **NAMED** as taking funds from the RSL illegally (stealing).

This statement is damaging to both the RSL and Dallas and slanderous, being untrue.

ALL RSL FUNDS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR.

Dallas, a number of RSL members and others have suffered a **LOSS OF FUNDS** in a Ponzi scheme conducted by parties having no association whatsoever to the RSL.

The two should not be connected!! The loss of funds is a personal issue.

Members and friends are requested to report any person/s who slander the RSL or Dallas and who make defamatory statements.

"A case of slander (slander is when someone verbally states lies about another in such a way as to damage their reputation or character). A case can be filed where the statement was made and communicated to a third party, is damaging, and is false. You will need to prove damages or economic harm occurred to recover for the statements.

*A case of "slander per se," however, can be made when a slander affects a person's business or business reputation or is made about a person's sexuality, criminal conduct, or having some horrible disease. In a slander per se case a plaintiff need not prove **special damages**, just making the statements alone is considered damaging enough.*

Libel Laws of the Philippines

Anyone making slanderous remarks should look at Article 353 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines.



FAT BOYS 10'S – CHALLENGER FIELD – CLARK – ANGELES CITY

A very successful 10th annual Rugby 10's Charity Tournament was held at Challenger Field on the Clark Airbase on the 7th September.

Teams came from all over Asia to compete and join in the fun and festivities on the day. The Pot Bellied Pigs from Hong Kong were one of the teams and asked us (RSL) to supply and distribute drinking water on the day.

It was a big job and our good friends from Starfish International Water immediately came to our aid with a donation of 1000 bottles of purified water. This was much appreciated

A big part of the day was the kids program. 450 kids from all over the poorer parts of the Province came and were treated to a day of fun and food. Each kid received a free FAT BOY T-shirt and were well fed with a fun park area with jumping castles etc. The kids were also given a few lessons on the rudimentary basics of Rugby, I'm sure this will inspire at least a few of them to continue an interest in the game.

Meanwhile the big (and I mean BIG) boys were battling it out on the field. A few injuries and sore muscles later the competition came to a close with the final results to be posted on the Fat Boys web site and we will try to post them here at a later date.

About half way through the day we realized we would not have enough water to get to the end of the competition – Then, in stepped Peter and Hamish from Starfish International and called their factory and got their wonderful staff to start the machinery and bottle another 1000 bottles. WOW what an effort on a Saturday afternoon, within an hour or two we had the water delivered, ensuring we

had enough water for the day. A BIG thank you to Starfish, it really demonstrated the "spirit of good will" that was prevalent all day.

All in all on the day we gave away nearly 3000 bottles of water to kids and very thirsty rugby players. This can never be underestimated as it was a very hot day and dehydration is a real danger in these conditions.

It was a big day and everyone had a great time. We especially like to help the Fat Boy's as often as we can as they are not only a good bunch of blokes, they are a huge supporter of the RSL Medical Missions with a large part of the charity money raised at the Rugby Carnival going to the Medical Missions.

On behalf of the RSL and the kids of the needier barangay's of the area we

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Lindsay Drury



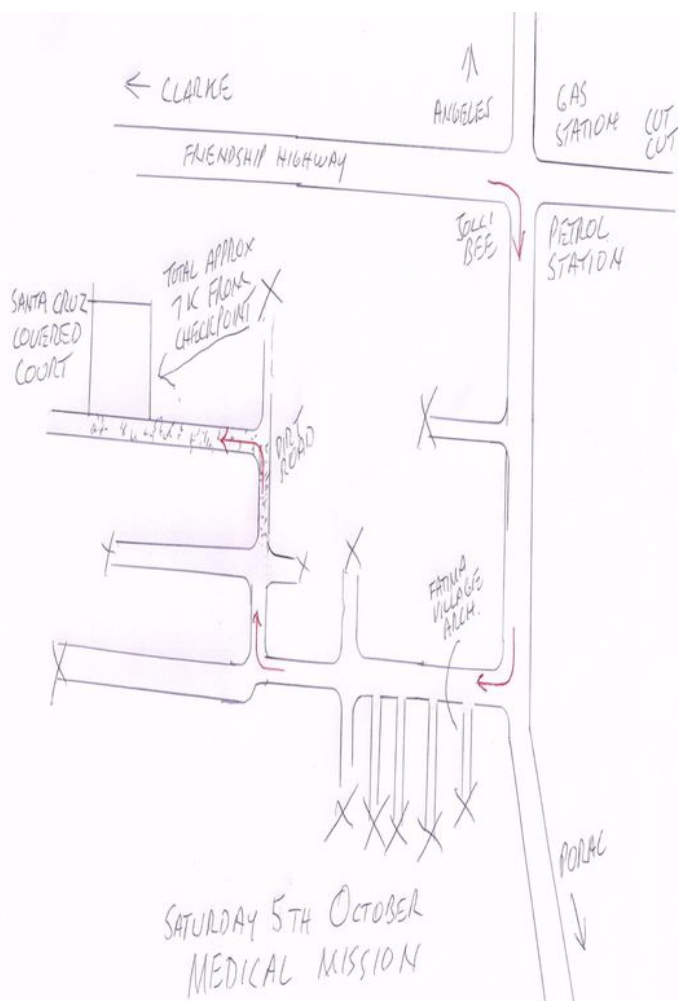
After the last medical mission we went back and delivered another couple of wheelchairs and nebulizers. Above is a smiling couple of kids that are now proud owners of a wheel chair and below is a picture of an extra two donated nebulizers



MUD MAP FOR OUR NEXT MEDICAL MISSION (FOLLOW THE ARROWS)

Our next medical mission is the covered court at Santa Cruz. Coming from Balibago along Perimeter Road direction, go through Little Korea, over the bridge, past Timog Park and continue along Friendship Hwy till you get to the corner with Jollibee one side and two gas station on opposite corners. Chuck a righty and go down to the second turn right and follow the arrows shown **right** →

NB. Don't go looking for CLARKE on the map, Lindsay hasn't learnt that the spelling is CLARK, without an 'e'.



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TOP END FILIPINOS IN THE
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE (AIF)

Part 2 : 428 Private Matthew Garr

Matthew Garr had been born on Thursday Island on 2 July 1889, christened with the surname 'Ga'. He was the third child and first son of the Filipino pearlshell diver Carlos Ga and his Welsh wife Mary Anne, who later came to live in

Palmerston (as Darwin was then known). By 1911, there were 52 Filipinos living in Palmerston and there were 31 pearling boats operating from Port Darwin, employing 138 men. The four sons of Carlos and Mary Anne who lived to adulthood all volunteered for the AIF in 1915.

Martien Nateo Ga (1889-1917)

Matthew applied for the AIF on 18 September 1915, aged 26. Two days later he took his younger brother Palencio and two other Filipino friends to a recruiting meeting held at Darwin Town Hall, where Palencio and his friends also volunteered. Matthew was enlisted in Darwin on 6 October 1915, giving his surname as 'Garr'.

Private Matthew Garr embarked in Sydney on 18 May 1916 with reinforcements for the 41st Battalion AIF on A64 HMAT *Demosthenes*. At Capetown, some of the men became tired of being kept without leave: on 19 June several of the lads broke through the wharf guard and went up to town. Matthew's platoon sergeant Leslie Dummer wrote in a letter home to Darwin: *"In this connection one old Darwinite (Matthew Garr) especially distinguished himself, and he was ordered to forfeit 28 days' pay"*.

When they were given disembarkation leave in England, Matthew's mates 'sent round the hat' so he would have some

cash in London. Dummer said of Matt Garr: *"his novel recitations of his impressions and experiences caused us all endless amusement"*.

Within a month, Mathew volunteered for a draft to reinforce the 47th Battalion, as Dummer explained: *"His reason was 'that it was twice more better to be killed and push up daisies in France than to sit down in England with no money'"*.

Private Matthew Garr fought on the Hindenburg Line and on the Ypres Salient in Belgium, at Messines and Passchendaele. He was killed on Anzac Ridge on the Ypres Salient in Belgium on 29 September 1917, aged 27. He was buried approximately 1,000 yards southwest of Zonnebeke, but his makeshift grave could not be located after the war.



Commemoration

Matthew Garr's name is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium. Each night at 8 pm, traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in a moving ceremony in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.

At the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, Matthew's name is honoured in the Commemorative Area of the Roll of Honour, panel 143.

The names of Matthew and his brother William were included on a Public Works Department Honour Roll unveiled by the Northern Territory Administrator Dr John Gilruth on 13 May 1916, and they were both listed on the Darwin Cenotaph which was unveiled on 24 April 1921. In 1968 the Darwin City Council named 'Garr Street' in their honour. The *Northern Territory Times* said of their father Carlos Ga: *"The old man was a familiar figure at Anzac and Armistice Day celebrations for*

he never failed to deposit his wreath in memory of his lost ones".

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>

SCHOOL-1945 vs. 2012

Scenario :

Johnny and Mark get into a fight after school.

1945 - Crowd gathers. Mark wins. Johnny and Mark shake hands and end up best friends.

2012 - Police called, and they arrest Johnny and Mark. Charge them with assault, both expelled even though Johnny started it. Both children go to anger management programmes for 3 months. School governors hold meeting to implement bullying prevention programmes.

Scenario :

Robbie won't be still in class, disrupts other students.

1945 - Robbie sent to the office and given six of the best by the Principal. Returns to class, sits still and does not disrupt class again.

2012 - Robbie given huge doses of Ritalin. Becomes a zombie. Tested for ADHD - result deemed to be positive. Robbie's parents get fortnightly disability payments and school gets extra funding from government because Robbie has a disability.

Scenario :

Billy breaks a window in his neighbour's car and his Dad gives him a whipping with his belt.

1945 - Billy is more careful next time, grows up normal, goes to college, and becomes a successful businessman.

2012 - Billy's dad is arrested for child abuse. Billy removed to foster care; joins a gang; ends up in jail.

Scenario :

Mark gets a headache and takes some aspirin to school.

1945 - Mark gets glass of water from

Principal to take aspirin with. Passes exams, becomes a solicitor.

2012- Police called, car searched for drugs and weapons. Mark expelled from school for drug taking. Ends up as a drop out.

Scenario :

Johnny takes apart leftover fireworks from Cracker night, puts them in a paint tin & blows up a wasp's nest.

1945 - Wasps die.

2012- Police & Anti-Terrorism Squad called. Johnny charged with domestic terrorism, investigate parents, siblings removed from home, computers confiscated. Johnny's Dad goes on a terror watch list and is never allowed to fly in an airplane again.

Scenario :

Johnny falls over while running during morning break and scrapes his knee. He is found crying by his teacher, Mary. She hugs him to comfort him.

1945 - In a short time, Johnny feels better and goes on playing footie. No damage done.

2012 - Mary is accused of being a sexual predator and loses her job. She faces 3 years in prison. Johnny undergoes 5 years of therapy and ends up gay.

This should be sent to every person you know to remind us how stupid we have become!

Regulations on Change of Name for Married Filipino Women for the Purpose of Passport Application.

The processing of Philippine passports is guided by the Philippine Passport Act of 1996 and other relevant regulations including the Civil Code of the Philippines.

Married applicants who wish to use the surname of their husband in their passports are advised that the following format will be used in accordance with Article 370 of the Civil Code of the Philippines which states that:

"A married Filipino woman may use her maiden first name and surname and add her husband's surname".

For example: Juana Santos Cruz who married John Doe becomes Juana Cruz Doe.

Under the Philippine regulations on naming, for single women and men, the middle name refers to

the surname of the person's mother. Once a woman marries and decides to use the surname of her husband, the maiden middle name Santos is automatically dropped and replaced by her maiden surname Cruz.

In Australia, however, the person's middle name refers to her second name. Applying such Australian regulation to Juana Santos Cruz who married John Doe, she drops her maiden surname Cruz and instead carried her maiden middle name Santos, making her full name as Juana Santos Doe. This is contrary to the Philippine laws.

This regulation cannot be applied to a Philippine passport. Married applicants who are already using their married names in some of their Australian-issued identification card or documents adopting Australian name regulation are ADVISED TO APPLY FOR A CHANGE OF NAME WITH THE AUSTRALIAN REGISTRY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN THE STATE OR TERRITORY where they reside to harmonize records with the name reflected on their Philippine Passport.

A BLIND Iraq war veteran has completed an epic 350km charity walk from Sydney to Canberra.



Liam Haven and his guide dog Omen made the two-week trek to help veterans' charity Soldier On and Guide Dogs Victoria.

Along the way, Private Haven was joined by senior political and defence figures, as well as regular well-wishers.

"We've had guys stopping their cars in the middle of the road and handing out \$5, \$50, \$10, water bottles," Private Haven told reporters in Canberra.

"We've had a guy drop off cupcakes to us. Sadly that was wasted on me because I don't eat that kind of stuff."

The soldier was blinded by a roadside bomb on patrol in Iraq in 2008. He lost one eye and has just two per cent of his sight in the other.

At the time, he couldn't imagine that five years later he would be completing something so satisfying.

"I've gone through a massive depressive spell and I was in rehab for alcohol abuse for a little bit and I've had massive highlights like going sky diving and bungee jumping and trips to Timor and to Thailand with my best mate," he said.

"But nothing compares to something like this. The satisfaction that you get from it is amazing."

He said it was important that young veterans acknowledge their mental health issues as well as physical injuries.

"I pushed through and put on this brave face and then found myself cracking around the edges," he said.

"Once the symptoms set in of any kind of depression, admitting it and kind of meeting it head on and conquering it, that's the first step to getting past it."

Assistant Minister for Defence Stuart Robert accompanied Private Haven for the final leg of the One Foot Forward trek.

"His courage, determination and initiative towards his own rehabilitation and recovery is inspiring," Mr Robert said.



Artificial Leg Success Story

A 48 year old mother, Merlita Soliman came forward at the medical mission in Concepcion on August 31. She needed an artificial leg.

Thanks to the coordination and generosity of the RSL (Dante Deverera), the Angeles City Rotary Club (May Shilton), the local Barangay staff (Khim Canono) and the Jesus Datu Medical Center in San Vicente, Bacolor it is reported that she was checked and fitted for a new free leg.

These groups and individuals should feel proud they have yet again significantly changed another family's life!

Thank you,

Greg Mann

RSL – VP



Vets discuss Agent Orange:

'It's still killing us':

Town hall meeting focuses on Vietnam veterans' exposure to Agent Orange

Sep. 18, 2013

Nearly 40 years after the Vietnam War, the State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America hosted a town hall meeting Tuesday to address a lingering issue: the effects of Agent Orange.

A panel of experts in veteran services were on hand to help Vietnam veterans

and their families get answers to their questions about the herbicide.

Most were wondering about how, even years after exposure to the chemical agent, **they and their children could be affected.**

The focus, said Joe West, president of V.E.T Inc., a veteran's support organization, is "making sure all of these people are telling their offspring," of the possible effects of the chemical on them and speaking loud enough to actually have something come from it and to show that there are options for help.

West, a Vietnam veteran, said the fact is that now, **children and grandchildren** are turning up with birth defects as a result of their parents' close exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

The chemical, along with other herbicides, was used to combat the thick jungles of the Southeast Asian country. More than 11 million gallons were dumped during the war.

The Veterans Affairs Department offers free exams and a registry that aims to give doctors more insight into the long-term affects.

"We're looking at a multi-generational issue," West added. "It doesn't look like it's going away any time soon."

Ken Gooding, a Crawfordville resident and the president of the Tallahassee-based Chapter 96 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, said that his three children all exhibit the same symptoms he does from exposure to Agent Orange. The list is nearly inexhaustible.

When asked about the symptoms, he said;

"How long have you got?"

Listing off;

*Diabetes,

*Heart trouble,

*70 percent loss of kidney function;

*PTSD among the most severe.

His children suffer from many of the same symptoms.

West said even 15 years after Vietnam, the Veterans Affairs Department refused to acknowledge that Agent Orange was used or existed.

"It's the kind of thing that the government doesn't want to talk about, hoping that it will go away," he said.

Tuesday was about letting people know where they can go for help if they were exposed to it in Vietnam, as well as offering a hand to soldiers returning to the United States from war today.

This is the case with Australian Vietnam Veterans as well. No government has ever admitted to the use of Agent Orange on our troops, but we know better. Ed

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Well that is it again for this month.

I owe many thanks to our Web Master, **Gerald Slide** for designing our new newsletter format and masthead. It is a good new look and smartens up our publication.

Gerald took the time to come on line with me using his remote programme and walked me through the new layout and teaching me how to offset pictures and put frames around them, among a host of other methods of posting information onto pages.

Up until then, I was emailing the old format to Gerald and he was transforming it to the new format then posting it to the internet.

While he was on line I also got him to do a service on my laptop which involved removing an accumulation of unwanted stuff which somehow manages to clog up the system. As a result, my machine is now not as cluttered and runs faster. He used his **Dr PC** programme.

I have had no adverse comments about the new set-up so it must please our members and readers.

Cheers to all.

Larry

Editor



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