

Department of Hawaii "Yanks Down Under" Post AU01 Sydney, Australia



May / June 2014

Did you know that almost 10% of our Post members are between 90 and 98 years of age?

Leading that illustrious crew, all Honorary Life Members, is former 1st Sgt Emelio Nacua Sr. who celebrated 98 years on May 27th and running a



very close 2nd are Jack Savage, Eugene McClarty and Col Trinnick at 97 (the latter two will attain this height in August). Let us not forget the "youngsters" though, Ralph Ferber (96),

John Grant (95), Carl Tatum (93), Bernard Murphy (92) and Roy Spence (91). CONGRATULATIONS to all of these fine gentlemen, all World War 2 veterans.

Once again we have a special mention for one of our original Post members and his wife, non-other (of course) than Ralph & Ruby Ferber who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Feb, 19th (ok so its old news but I just found out). As they are dual citizens (bet they didn't pay dual income taxes) they received letters from the Queen, Prime Minister and Governor General. Ralph said "if there was any money involved in it he'd live another 70 years". O.K. that's it, you have had a mention in the last two newsletters so don't look for more in the future unless of course Ruby has another baby,



now that could be worth some money. I'll just leave it there except for CONGRATULATIONS!!



ANZAC Day in Sydney was a bit damp but we had a turnout of 28 members, down a bit from the past few years but there were a few factors involved. The wet weather, aging of SOME of our veterans and others travelling overseas. The RSL did promise we would start off earlier due to the fact many Australian World War 2 veterans would not be marching (remember they went to war in 1939) and many have passed away since last year.



Well, we stepped off at noon sharp and ended at Hyde Park South at 12:25. Thanks again to member Paul "Semper Fi" Fidelis for procuring (wrong choice of word there but you know what I mean) the Army Cadets from Barker College to carry our flags.



A very sharp group of young men and ladies whose parents and college should be very proud of their performance (and they made we vets look good too). Remember it was also the school holidays and they ALL VOLUNTEERED.

So many volunteered there were many more than needed for the color guards for us and the Marines (good example of separate but equal there) who have their own contingent following us, several are Legion members too.

To round out our contingent we had a few "American tourists" as happens each year (all were Legion members in the states so no recruiting there this year). Two were retired US Army from Boston who came out to Australia to escape all that snow still falling in Boston at the time. Jim Richardson, retired Principal of Kirrawee High School, invited his old roommate from college at UCLA in 1967, Steve Sonntag, who was in Australia with his family for a holiday, to march with us ANZAC Day. Jim left UCLA in 1968 and joined the army ending up in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division. Steve, the smart one obviously, stayed in college, completed Navy ROTC then spent the next 31 years in the Navy retiring as a Captain and once was the commander of the frigate USS Reasoner. He knew a little about ANZAC Day but was astounded at the huge scale and pageantry. He was particularly amazed at the size of the march especially the size and diversity of the international units and the thousands of spectators applauding and thanking the veterans for their service. For those who don't know, (our newsletter goes to the USA and

Europe) the march starts promptly at 9 am and lasts over 4 hours and then all are regaled by massed Pipe Bands marching down George St, the main thoroughfare thru Sydney. His eldest daughter is a Captain in the Marine Corps and of course she also marched with us. So there you are, thanks Jim for inviting Steve and his daughter to march with us. Steve had just joined an American Legion Post in San Diego.



Our thanks and a tip of the Legion cap to Bill Earls for taking the wet flags home to dry them out. He has also "volunteered" to be the next Sgt-at-Arms. No there hasn't been a Palace Coup.. the 3 year term of Past Sgt-at-Arms Ken Studerous ended this year.....also.....Ken and Ann Studerous are in Switzerland looking to connect with family members. Ken hopes they are all Swiss bankers. Switzerland in springtime?? I can just see him in his Lederhosen (leather shorts) and Tyrolean hat swirling down a snow capped mountain yodelling "the hills are alive with the sound of Studerouses". Lederhosen in April in Switzerland?? Vorreckt Amerikaner as they say in Switzerland.

Up in sunny Port Macquarie David Lee & Bill Skane led the American contingent in fact they were the contingent..Goodonya fellas

So, where are all those missing persons supposedly overseas at the time. Chuck (known as Charles in Queensland) Kizis, a Past Vice-Commander, and wife Rhonda were in the colonies as reported in March. George & Kathy Foster are making a tour of the various war zones to include Jordon & Israel (Syria was off the bucket list) then a driving tour of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia. Wonder if they hired an old Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) or ungraded to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. They must be behaving themselves as there has been nothing on the Al Jazeera News about them.

The big question of the day was where are Wray Walker (I told everyone you were working) and Dan Tyler (I told all who enquired you were in Queensland flying a chopper), response was a resounding....OH? and last but not Gary & Jean Nasers have been transferred from beautiful Elizabeth Bay in Sydney to hot and steamy Darwin (averaging 80% humidity on a dry day).

You guessed it, a slow news month. You want more?

Up there in sunny Phoenix, Arizona (the valley of the sun they call it, and hot sun it is) member Peter Lurvey, formerly a resident of Melbourne (no wonder he lusted for the sun) cannot stand the heat in mid-summer (116 F hot? but a dry heat but so is an oven). He now has a summer hide away in the hills near the New Mexico border called Show Low. Funny name for a town and no it isn't named after some Asian. It's a town named after a turn of the cards. It was established in 1870 when the population was 2, a mountain man Marion Clark and Corydon Cooley a famous Indian Scout. They homesteaded their land and fenced off 100,000 acres with barbed wire. Some years later they had a disagreement and decided to dissolve their partnership with a game of cards called "Seven Up". They played all night. The winner would buy out the loser. On the last hand Cooley needed only one point to win. At that moment Clark is reported to say, "you show low and you win". Cooley cut the deck and came up with the deuce of club thus winning the game and the land and providing the name of the future town of Show Low. Today the main street is called "Deuce of Clubs". Show Low is now the most populated community in Navajo County with 12,400 year round residents but attracts several thousand in summer, to include Mr & Mrs Peter Lurvey, to an elevation of 6,400 feet and the largest forest of Ponderosa Pine trees in the United States.

Congratulations to Post Historian Donald Kennedy who has been re-elected to another term as President of the Merchant Navy RSL Sub-branch. Not bad for a former Kannon Kommander in the Norwegian Merchant Navy and a Seaman with the US Army Transport Service.

J JULY 4th (Independence Day) luncheon for our American Legion Family and their friends. Friday July 4th starting at noon at the "99 on York Club" (formerly called the Bowlers Club of NSW), same venue as in past years for July 4th and Thanksgiving Day luncheon.



It is an all you can eat buffet with choices of Australian and Asian dishes, seafood including prawns,. Salads, desserts, tea and coffee. Alcoholic and soft drinks are available at the bar but not included in the entry price of about \$22 which is what club members are charged. When entering the dining area on the 1st floor you MUST tell the cashier you are with the American Legion party to get this discount. Please contact Nicole Raymond on 042 9890 761 or Esme Trainor on 9150-4730 and give them the number in your party. Bookings are essential as the area we have reserved holds only 35.

Nearest Railway Station is Town Hall. Go thru the Queen Victoria Building exiting at the northern end at the corner of Market & York Sts. Cross over York St. by the Post Office and the club is only a few doors down the street towards the harbor at 99 York St (where else). Looking forward to seeing you and your friends on July 4th

Next business meetings are August 6th and October 1st. The time has been altered to 11:15am due to the new railway timetable.

One of our newer members has suggested we have some sort of get together during the year other than July 4thm Thanksgiving Day & ANZAC Day, Good idea, any suggestions?



Thanks to all that made a donation recently to the RSPCA's Million Paws Walk as outlines in the March Newsletter, it was overwhelming to say the least, one donation came from as far as Austin, Texas. Thank you all very much.

Thank You for your Support!!

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