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The Official News Organ of  
the Rotary Club of Manila

# balita

ISSUE NO. 4087 • MAY 7, 2026



## Hon. Voltaire D. MAURICIO

Former Consul General in Osaka  
Former Minister and Consul in London

**Where  
Intelligence  
Meets Purpose**

*The 28th Weekly  
Membership Meeting  
of the Rotary Club of Manila*

**A Builder of Places,  
A Shaper of People**

*The Journey of Wilhelm  
"Bollie" Vorster Bolton  
Across Continents,  
Careers, and Callings*

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# PROGRAM



## ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA

29th Weekly Membership Meeting

Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 12:30 PM

Manila Polo Club

**Moderator: PD ISSAM ELDEBS**

### PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch

12:30 PM Call to Order | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

Invocation

**VP RICARDO S.B. "Ricky" GUEVARA**

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn

**RCM WF Music Chorale**

The Four (4) Way Test

**DSAA DAVID J. "Dave" REYNOLDS**

Acknowledgment of Guests

**PD ISSAM ELDEBS**

Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**

#### **Birthday Celebrants**

May 5 PD Amading Valdez

May 6 Rtn. Jerry Agnes

May 14 Rtn. J Alfonso L Katigbak

*Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song*

**RCM WF Chorale**

### PART II

12:55 PM President's Time

**PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

- Special Recognition to IT Arik Carranceja

1:00 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor  
and Speaker

**RTN. SHIGERU SHIMODA**

Guest Speaker

**ATTY. VOLTAIRE D. MAURICIO**

Former Consul General of the Philippines  
in Osaka and London

*Address:*

***"Insights on Foreign Affairs"***

1:30 PM Open Forum / Q&A

1:45 PM Presentation of Certificate  
of Appreciation

**PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

2:00 PM Adjournment

**PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

## EDITORIAL

**Reginald T. Yu**  
Editor-in-Chief



**I**N a time when nations are increasingly defined by lines — on maps, in policies, and across ideologies — it is both timely and necessary that the Rotary Club of Manila welcomes as Guest of Honor and Speaker Hon. Voltaire D. Mauricio, a man whose life's work has been devoted to navigating precisely these lines.

A former consul general in Osaka and London, he has stood at the intersection of diplomacy, culture, and national interest. His career reminds us that the work of building bridges between nations is neither abstract nor ceremonial. It is

deliberate, often difficult, and always consequential.

This week's Weekly Membership Meeting is more than a gathering. It is an opportunity to reflect on a fundamental question: What does it mean to lead in a world that is increasingly interconnected, yet persistently divided?

Diplomacy, at its core, is not merely the art of negotiation. It is the discipline of understanding. It requires the ability to listen beyond language, to recognize interests beneath positions, and to find common ground where none appears to exist. These are not skills reserved for ambassadors alone. They are competencies that Rotary, at its best, cultivates in each of its members.

For over a century, the Rotary Club of Manila has operated not just as a civic organization, but as a quiet force of continuity. Through wars, political transitions, economic upheavals, and global crises, it has remained steadfast in its commitment to service above self. Yet today's challenges call for something more.

They call for relevance.

## EDITORIAL

In an age where influence is measured not only by authority but by credibility, Rotary must continually ask itself: Are we merely preserving tradition, or are we actively shaping the future? Are we content with being witnesses to change, or are we prepared to be agents of it?

The presence of Hon. Mauricio offers a subtle but powerful reminder. Leadership today is no longer confined to boardrooms or government offices. It is exercised in conversations, in collaborations, and in the everyday decisions that either divide or unite.

The theme “Unite for Good” is not a slogan. It is a mandate.

To unite is not to agree on everything. It is to commit to a shared purpose despite differences. It is to recognize that progress is rarely the product of uniformity, but often the result of respectful engagement among diverse perspectives.

As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to model this kind of leadership. Our network spans professions, sectors, and generations. Our projects touch lives in ways that statistics alone cannot capture. But the true measure of our impact lies not

only in what we do, but in how we do it.

Do we listen with intent?  
Do we lead with integrity?  
Do we act with a sense of responsibility that extends beyond ourselves?

These are the quiet questions that define enduring leadership.

As we gather this Thursday at the Manila Polo Club, we do so not merely to hear a distinguished speaker, but to engage in a deeper reflection on our role in a rapidly evolving world. The flags that form the backdrop of this meeting are more than symbols of nations. They are reminders of the diversity we are called to embrace — and the unity we are challenged to build.

In the end, Rotary’s strength has never been in its history alone, but in its ability to adapt that history to the demands of the present.

And perhaps that is the enduring lesson of diplomacy, and of leadership itself:

That even in a world of many flags, there must always be a common cause.

And it is ours to carry forward. ■

## GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER



### **HON. VOLTAIRE D. MAURICIO**

Former Consul General in Osaka  
Former Minister and Consul in London

*Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General in Osaka*

**VOLTAIRE Dela Cruz Mauricio is a prominent Philippine career diplomat who most recently served as the Consul General of the Philippines in Osaka, Japan. He concluded his tour of duty in Osaka on January 18, 2026.**

Hon. Mauricio served as Consul General in Osaka (2022–2026). He led the Philippine Consulate General in Osaka, overseeing relations in Western Japan. His tenure included significant events such as the World EXPO 2025 in Osaka, where he managed the Philippine Pavilion.

Prior to his posting in Japan, he was Minister and Consul at the Philippine Embassy in London, where his jurisdiction included the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland.

He has been a vocal advocate for Gender and Development (GAD), chairing regional training sessions for foreign service posts to update the DFA's gender mainstreaming frameworks. He also spearheaded community projects like the Pistang Pilipino sa Osaka to promote Filipino culture.

Prior to joining the foreign service, Hon. Mauricio served in the Senate Legislative staff for Senators Wigberto Tanada, Eduardo Angara, and Franklin Drilon. He was also a partner of The Law Firm of Reyes, Erese, & Mauricio.

He took up his elementary and high school education at Ateneo de Davao and finished his BS Legal Management at Ateneo de Manila. He took up his law studies at the UP College of Law.

He is also a Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmarinas. He is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Osaka East, a sister club of our Rotary Club of Manila. ■

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## The Last Two Months

**T**HERE'S a particular clarity that arrives when a term of office begins to wind down. Entering the final two months of service as President of Asia's First Rotary Club, I find myself in that space between reflection and resolve -- where the past year comes into sharper focus, and the responsibility to finish strong feels more urgent than ever.

When I began my term in July last year, everything was defined by possibility. Plans were laid out with



**Raoul C. Creencia**  
President

optimism, calendars were filled with intent, and each project carried the promise of impact. Now, with only a short stretch of time remaining, those plans have either taken shape, evolved, or, in some cases, taught us difficult but valuable lessons. Leadership, I have come to realize, is not about the flawless execution of every idea, but about the ability to adapt, persevere, and keep moving the club forward.

These final weeks are not a time to slow down -- they are a call to sharpen focus. There is still much to be done: projects to complete,

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

commitments to honor, and opportunities to seize. In fact, the coming weeks will be quite busy, as we roll out three of our signature initiatives: the Ambassador Awards, the Tower Awards, and the Journalism Awards. Each of these programs represents not only the culmination of months of preparation, but also the very essence of what our club stands for -- recognizing excellence, celebrating service, and uplifting voices that contribute meaningfully to society.

The Ambassador Awards will serve as a powerful reminder of the enduring value of representation and goodwill, honoring individuals who have exemplified the art of bridging communities and fostering deeper understanding. The Tower Awards, meanwhile, stand as a meaningful tribute to our blue-collar workers -- those whose quiet, steadfast contributions form the backbone of our economy and whose efforts deserve far greater recognition. The Journalism Awards, for their part, reaffirm the indispensable role of truth and responsible storytelling, especially in an era when clarity, integrity,

and discernment in public discourse are more vital than ever.

Taken together, these are not merely events on a calendar—they are living expressions of our values, brought to life through purposeful action and collective resolve.

Alongside these, we look forward to the Club Awards, which will be held during our final weekly meeting on June 25. This gathering will serve as both a celebration and a moment of closure -- a time to recognize the collective efforts of our members and officers who have made the year meaningful and impactful. It is in this culminating event that we bring together the threads of the entire term, acknowledging both individual and shared accomplishments.

The temptation, perhaps, is to begin easing into transition mode, to mentally step aside in anticipation of new leadership. But stewardship demands otherwise. The trust given by the members of the club was not for most of the year -- it was for the entire term. And so, the responsibility remains as real today as it was on the first day.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Indeed, these final months invite a deeper sense of gratitude. The presidency is often described in terms of responsibility, but it is equally a privilege. The opportunity to work alongside dedicated members, to witness acts of service, and to be part of a collective striving toward a greater good -- these are experiences that leave a lasting imprint. It is in this period of looking back that one fully appreciates the people who made the journey meaningful: the officers who carried heavy loads without hesitation, the members who showed up time and again, and the partners who believed in the club's mission.

There is also value in acknowledging imperfections. Not every goal may have been achieved, not every initiative fully realized. Yet even in these gaps lie lessons -- about planning, collaboration, and the realities of balancing ambition with capacity. These insights are not marks of failure; they are contributions to the club's institutional memory, guiding future leaders toward even better outcomes.

As the term approaches its conclusion, I am reminded that leadership is measured not only by what is started, but by what is sustained and completed. The final stretch is an opportunity to reaffirm commitments, to bring closure where it is needed, and to celebrate progress where it has been made. It is a chance to demonstrate that consistency and dedication endure until the very end.

In many ways, these last two months define the legacy of a presidency. They reflect whether the energy that marked the beginning was carried through to the finish, and whether the club emerges not just intact, but strengthened. We will endeavor to finish strong as it means honoring the trust that was given, the work that was undertaken, and the purpose that brought everyone together in the first place.

And so, with gratitude for the journey and determination for what remains, the focus is clear: **to lead, to serve, and to finish well.** ■

cover story

by PE Reginald T. Yu

# Where Intelligence Meets Purpose

*The 27th Weekly  
Membership Meeting  
of the Rotary Club  
of Manila*



**A**T precisely 12:30 PM, the gavel fell. With quiet authority, President Raoul C. Creencia called to order the 28th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila, convened within the stately halls of the Manila Polo Club. What unfolded that afternoon was not merely a gathering of Rotarians, but an encounter between tradition and transformation, where the enduring values of Rotary were set against the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence.

Guided by Moderator **STAR Rotarian Ingill Ra**, the program moved with the elegance and precision that has long defined the Club's culture.

The invocation, solemnly delivered by **Rotarian Ramon Alberto B. "Ramby" Nolido**, centered the assembly in reflection and gratitude. This was followed by an audio-visual presentation of the Philippine National Anthem, stirring in every attendee a renewed sense of national pride and shared responsibility.

The room resonated with the **Rotary Club of Manila Hymn**, performed by the **RCM WF Music Chorale**, a familiar melody that continues to bind generations of Rotarians. Soon after, **STAR Rotarian Oliver L. Pantaleon** led the recitation of the **Four-Way Test**, reaffirming the ethical framework that remains the bedrock of Rotary's identity.

As host, **STAR Rotarian Ingill Ra** extended a gracious acknowledgment of guests and members, setting a tone of warmth and inclusivity. The Chorale returned with a welcome song that lifted the atmosphere, seamlessly transitioning the program into a moment of celebration as the



*President Raoul C. Creencia called the 28th Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila to order.*



*STAR Rotarian Ingill Ra moderated the meeting.*



*Rotarian Ramon Alberto B. "Ramby" Nolido led the invocation.*

Club honored its birthday celebrants. Names were called, greetings were exchanged, and laughter filled the room as the *Maligayang Bati* was rendered with heartfelt enthusiasm.

## President's Time: A Steady Hand on the Helm

During President's Time, President Raoul addressed the membership with clarity and purpose, articulating both the responsibilities of the present and the possibilities of the future. His message carried the quiet strength of a leader who understands that stewardship is not only about continuity, but about preparing the institution for what lies ahead. It was a reminder that Rotary's relevance is sustained not by tradition alone, but by its ability to adapt while remaining anchored in its core values.



STAR Rotarian Oliver L. Pantaleon led the recitation of the Four-Way Test



President Raoul Creencia addressed the membership with clarity and purpose during President's Time.



Ms. Delby Bragais, President of the Inner Wheel Club of Manila, and Ms. Jeanne Harn, Ms. Philippines Earth 2007, extended a warm invitation to their upcoming fundraising event, "Dinner Dance!"





*RCM & RCMFI 4<sup>th</sup> Golf Tournament Chair VPE Karlo Castro warmly invited everyone to participate in the upcoming golf tournament on June 22, 2026 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.*

## **The Introduction: Framing the Future**

The afternoon took on a more anticipatory tone as **Club Secretary Antonilo D.C. “Anton” Mauricio** stepped forward to introduce the Guest of Honor and Speaker, **Dr. Erika Fille T. Legara**.

His introduction was both precise and compelling, presenting not only her distinguished credentials as Managing Director and Chief AI & Data Officer of the Education Center for AI Research and Associate Professor at the Asian Institute of Management, but also underscoring the importance of the subject she was about to address. Artificial intelligence, he suggested, is no longer a distant concept reserved for



*Club Secretary Antonilo D.C. “Anton” Mauricio introduced the Guest Speaker.*

technologists; it is an undeniable force shaping industries, institutions, and the very way society functions.

## **Artificial Intelligence — Responsible Use and Aid to Productivity**

Dr. Legara began with an ease and authenticity that immediately connected with her audience. There was no attempt to overwhelm with jargon or abstraction. Instead, she invited the room into a conversation — one that sought to make artificial intelligence both understandable and relevant.

She opened with a thought that lingered throughout her talk: the future is already here, but it is not evenly distributed. In that single line, she captured the paradox of modern innovation — where extraordinary



*Guest of Honor and Speaker, Dr. Erika Fille T. Legara*

technological advancements coexist with uneven access and understanding.

From there, she gently dismantled the mystique surrounding artificial intelligence. She explained that what many perceive as a singular, almost mythical entity is in reality the convergence of three forces: vast amounts of data, increasingly powerful computing systems, and the evolution of algorithms capable of identifying patterns and making predictions. These elements, when brought together, form the foundation upon which modern AI systems are built.

Yet, she was careful to temper expectations. The intelligence we see today, she explained, is not the all-encompassing, human-like intelligence often portrayed in films.

What exists now is something far more specific — systems that excel in narrowly defined tasks. They can process language, recommend products, detect fraud, or analyze behavior with remarkable precision, but they remain confined to the boundaries of their design.

What made her presentation particularly compelling was her ability to ground these ideas in real-world applications, many of them developed within the Philippine context. She spoke of systems capable of assessing the value of repossessed motorcycles by analyzing images, sounds, and technical specifications — reducing hours of expert work into minutes. She described how financial institutions have used AI to better understand borrowers, allowing them to extend credit more responsibly while significantly reducing default rates. These were not abstract possibilities; they were tangible examples of how technology can drive both efficiency and inclusivity.

Her discussion then shifted to the public sector, where the impact of artificial intelligence becomes even more profound. She spoke of initiatives that use AI to detect malnutrition among children, enabling faster intervention and

potentially changing the trajectory of young lives. She described systems designed to identify learning disabilities at an early stage, allowing for timely support in communities that may otherwise lack access to specialists. She shared how AI is being used to map disaster risks across the country, providing decision-makers with hyper-localized data that can guide critical actions during times of crisis.

Each example reinforced a central theme: technology, when guided by purpose, can become a powerful instrument for social good.

As the presentation progressed, Dr. Legara introduced the concept of generative artificial intelligence — a more recent development that allows machines not just to analyze data, but to create new content. She demonstrated how these systems can write, interpret, simulate conversations, and even assist in complex decision-making processes. Yet, even as she showcased these capabilities, she maintained a measured perspective. These tools, she emphasized, are meant to augment human intelligence, not replace it. Judgment, ethics, and accountability remain firmly within the domain of people.



*Dr. Erika Fille T. Legara engaged in an interactive conversation during the Q&A with STAR Rtn. Ingill Ra, Rtn. Willie Peliño, PD Abe Pascual, PVP Joel Valdes, Rtn. Daniel Obradó, PD Amading Valdez, and Rtn. Jed Dayang.*





In her closing, she turned her focus to leadership. Artificial intelligence, she asserted, is neither inherently good nor bad. Its impact depends entirely on how it is used. For organizations like the Rotary Club of Manila — institutions built on service, integrity, and community — the responsibility is clear. The challenge is not simply to adopt new technologies, but to ensure that they are harnessed in ways that uplift, include, and empower.

### **A Dialogue of Minds**

The open forum that followed was marked by thoughtful engagement. Members posed questions that

reflected both curiosity and discernment, exploring not only the opportunities presented by artificial intelligence, but also its ethical implications and practical applications within their respective fields.

It was evident that the conversation had moved beyond passive listening. The room had become a space for dialogue, where ideas were tested, perspectives were shared, and understanding deepened.

### **A Gesture of Gratitude**

In recognition of her insightful and thought-provoking presentation, President Raoul presented Dr.



*PDG Jackie Rodriguez presented President Raoul Creencia with a bannerette from the Rotary Club of Madrid.*

Legara with a Certificate of Appreciation. It was a simple gesture, yet one that carried the weight of collective gratitude for a message that had both informed and inspired.

## **Closing the Afternoon**

At 2:00 PM, the meeting was formally adjourned.

And yet, as members slowly dispersed, there remained an unmistakable sense that something more enduring had taken place. The afternoon had not merely added to the Club's calendar of meetings; it had expanded its horizon.

For in that space — where tradition stood firmly rooted and the future quietly unfolded — the Rotary Club of Manila once again affirmed its place not only as a steward of legacy, but as a participant in shaping what comes next. ■



*President Raoul Creencia adjourned the meeting.*



## Meeting Fellowship



# CLUB ADMINISTRATION

## RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2025-2026



### ATTENDANCE REPORT April 2026

| APRIL 2026                   | April 02, 2026<br>NO WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (HOLIDAY) | April 09, 2026<br>NO WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (HOLIDAY) | April 16, 2026<br>MR. BRANDON "GEO" WONG | April 23, 2026<br>NO WEEKLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING (FELLOWSHIP) | April 30, 2026<br>DR. ENIKA FILLE T. LEGARA |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| MEMBERS PRESENT              | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 33                                       | 0                                                           | 51                                          |
| MEMBERS PRESENT %            | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                       | 16%                                      | 0%                                                          | 24%                                         |
| MAKE UP ATTENDEES            | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 11                                       | 0                                                           | 6                                           |
| EXEMPTED                     | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 4                                        | 0                                                           | 7                                           |
| ON LEAVE                     | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 0                                        | 0                                                           | 0                                           |
| Total Active Members         | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 44                                       | 0                                                           | 57                                          |
| Total # of Members           | 210                                                      | 210                                                      | 212                                      | 212                                                         | 212                                         |
| TOTAL %:                     | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                       | 21%                                      | 0%                                                          | 27%                                         |
| ROTARACTORS                  | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 6                                        | 0                                                           | 0                                           |
| MEDIA                        | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 0                                        | 0                                                           | 0                                           |
| EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 0                                        | 0                                                           | 0                                           |
| DG, DGE, DGN, PDG            | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 0                                        | 0                                                           | 0                                           |
| GONS / GS                    | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 1                                        | 0                                                           | 1                                           |
| VISITING ROTARIAN            | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 3                                        | 0                                                           | 0                                           |
| Guests of RCM MEMBERS        | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 3                                        | 0                                                           | 4                                           |
| TOTAL ATTENDEES              | 0                                                        | 0                                                        | 46                                       | 0                                                           | 56                                          |



### LIST OF ATTENDEES April 30, 2026

|    |                               |    |                                |
|----|-------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | Albaña, Michael Jaey C        | 26 | Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC. |
| 2  | Bartolome III, Arsenio M.     | 27 | Nolido, Ramon Alberto B.       |
| 3  | Carlos, Vicente J.            | 28 | Nomura, Kazuhiro               |
| 4  | Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M. | 29 | Obrado, Daniel Calzado         |
| 5  | Cid, Dean Y.                  | 30 | Pascual, Abraham F.            |
| 6  | Creencia, Raoul C.            | 31 | Peliño, Wilfredo M.            |
| 7  | Cureg, Alexander P.           | 32 | Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.       |
| 8  | Davis, Raymond N.             | 33 | Ra, Ingill                     |
| 9  | Dayang, Jr Juan E.            | 34 | Recto, Philip H.               |
| 10 | Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.     | 35 | Reynolds, David J.             |
| 11 | Egan, Brendan W.L.            | 36 | Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.      |
| 12 | Eldebs, Issam                 | 37 | Roxas, Michael D.              |
| 13 | Enriquez III, Eduardo V.      | 38 | Serapio, Carlos G.             |
| 14 | Esguerra, Herminio S.         | 39 | Sibayan, Joselito H.           |
| 15 | Go, Henry S.                  | 40 | Simon, Juanito A.              |
| 16 | Gonzales, Jonas R.            | 41 | So, Warren S.                  |
| 17 | Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.      | 42 | Tagaysay, Hector O.            |
| 18 | Guevara, Ricardo S.           | 43 | Tee, Teddy Jr. B.              |
| 19 | Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV | 44 | Valdes, Joel C.                |
| 20 | Locsin, Arsenio Z.            | 45 | Valdez, Amado D.               |
| 21 | Lonzaga, Reinerio C.          | 46 | Valencia, John Nico P.         |
| 22 | Lorenzana, Delfin             | 47 | Yordanov, Stefan               |
| 23 | Magsaysay, Francisco D.       | 48 | Yu, Reginald Tieng             |
| 24 | Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G. | 49 | Hiroyasu, Kanda                |
| 25 | Mauricio, Antonio DC          | 50 | Pantaleon, Oliver              |
|    |                               | 51 | Tamesis, Chris C.              |

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

# List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of May 5, 2026

1 ABOY, VALENTINO G.  
2 ABRIAM, ARIEL  
3 ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.  
4 AGNES, JERRY A.  
5 ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY  
6 ALBERTO, RAYMUND ARNOLD S.  
7 ALCANTARA, ISIDRO  
8 ALDAY, ALBERT S.  
9 ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.  
10 ALUNAN, RAFAEL M.  
11 ANDAL, AVELINO L.  
12 ANG, RICHARD  
13 ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.  
14 ARAMBULO, JOAQUIN JR. L.  
15 ARGUELLES, PABLO C.  
16 AVENTURA, AVELINO JR. L.  
17 BAGATSING, VALENTINO  
18 BALANAY, ARIES B.  
19 BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.  
20 BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.  
21 BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.  
22 BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.  
23 BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.  
24 BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.  
25 BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR  
26 BLANCO, MANUEL M.  
27 BOGOVICH, JASON M.  
28 BOLTON, WILHELM  
29 BRANELEC, JACQUES  
30 BUENDIA, CARLOS  
31 CABANGON, EDGARD  
32 CABUNAG, ROGELIO  
33 CAMAT, NATHANIEL  
34 CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.  
35 CANON, RAUL JR C.  
36 CARLOS, VICENTE J.  
37 CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.  
38 CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.  
39 CATALAN, RODILLO  
40 CHAHWAN, RAMI  
41 CHAN, ROBERT JR.  
42 CENICA, JOHN  
43 CHIEN, LIANG-TA  
44 CID, DEAN  
45 CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.  
46 CORTEZ, LORENZO  
47 COYIUTO, ROBERT JR. G.  
48 CREENCIA, RAOUL C.  
49 CUREG, ALEXANDER P.  
50 CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL

51 DAYANG, JUAN E.  
52 DAVIS, RAYMOND N.  
53 DE CASTRO, JUAN ARTURO ILUMINADO  
54 DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR  
55 DIONISIO, RAFAEL  
56 DOMINGO, RICO, V.  
57 DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS G.  
58 DY, MANUEL  
59 EGAN, BRENDAN  
60 ELDEBS, ISSAM  
61 ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III  
62 ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.  
63 ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A.  
64 EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.  
65 EUGENIO, ERIC  
66 FAJARDO, BEDA G.  
67 FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.  
68 FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.  
69 GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY  
70 GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.  
71 GARCIA, THEODORE Q.  
72 GARCIA, VICTOR III G.  
73 GASPAR, FERNANDO  
74 GINEZ, WINSTON M.  
75 GO, DANNY C.  
76 GO, HENRY S.  
77 GONZALES, JONAS R.  
78 GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL  
79 GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY  
80 GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.  
81 GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.  
82 HALLARE, DELFIN JR.  
83 HALLARE, NICOLÒ  
84 HARLE, WOLFGANG KURT  
85 HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.  
86 HESSE, UWE  
87 IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.  
88 JANG, JAE JUNG  
89 JOSEPH, RALPH L.  
90 JUCABAN, JERIC J.  
91 KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.  
92 KANDA, HIROYUSI  
93 KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L  
94 KE, ERIC CHAN  
95 KHO, RALPH VALENTIN  
96 KLEBS, DAVID  
97 KOH, PAUL ANTHONY  
98 LACAMBACAL, ALVIN  
99 LAYA, JAIME C.  
100 LAUREL, RICARDO P.

## CLUB ADMINISTRATION

# List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of May 5, 2026

|     |                                |     |                                   |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 101 | LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL            | 152 | RANKL, PETER                      |
| 102 | LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.         | 153 | RECTO, PHILIP H.                  |
| 103 | LEE, RICHARD L.                | 154 | REYNOLDS, DAVID                   |
| 104 | LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS M.     | 155 | RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H. |
| 105 | LIM, RICHARD                   | 156 | RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.         |
| 106 | LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.          | 157 | ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.    |
| 107 | LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.          | 158 | ROMUALDEZ, JOSE MANUEL G.         |
| 108 | LIAO, CHRISTOPHER              | 159 | ROÑO, MARLON                      |
| 109 | LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.             | 160 | ROXAS, MICHAEL D.                 |
| 110 | LONZAGA, REINERIO C.           | 161 | SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.      |
| 111 | LOPEZ, ANTONIO                 | 162 | SCHMITZ, STEFAN                   |
| 112 | LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.               | 163 | SCHNEIDER, BERND                  |
| 113 | LORENZANA, DELFIN              | 164 | SERAPIO, CARLOS G.                |
| 114 | MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.          | 165 | SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.           |
| 115 | MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.        | 166 | SHIMODA, SHIGERU                  |
| 116 | MAGBANUA, GERRY P.             | 167 | SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.              |
| 117 | MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.        | 168 | SIMON, JUANITO AYSON              |
| 118 | MAGSAYSAY, JESUS VICENTE E.    | 169 | SO, WARREN                        |
| 119 | MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.           | 170 | SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN            |
| 120 | MANGALILE, SENEN               | 171 | STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD            |
| 121 | MARTINEZ, RONALD               | 172 | SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.              |
| 122 | MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.  | 173 | TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.               |
| 123 | MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC          | 174 | TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.           |
| 124 | MAURICIO, FRANCISCO ROBERTO C. | 176 | TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.             |
| 125 | MENDOZA, MIGUEL                | 177 | TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.               |
| 126 | MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.     | 178 | TAMAYO, VICTOR L.                 |
| 127 | MOMMAERTS, STEVE               | 179 | TAMESIS, CHRIS                    |
| 128 | NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.       | 180 | TAN, EUSEBIO V.                   |
| 129 | NOMURA, KAZUHIRO               | 181 | TAN, JOHN G.                      |
| 130 | NONES, ROMEO C.                | 182 | TAN, LAWRENCE L.                  |
| 131 | NUÑEZ, JOSE A.                 | 183 | TAN, MYLES                        |
| 132 | OBRADO, DANIEL                 | 184 | TEE, TEDDY JR. B.                 |
| 133 | OCAMPO, TEODORO J.             | 185 | TEJUMAL, MICHAEL                  |
| 134 | ONG, PHILIP                    | 186 | TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L. |
| 135 | ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.           | 187 | UY, IVAN JOHN E.                  |
| 136 | OZAETA, MIGUEL ANTONIO L.      | 188 | VALDES, JOELC.                    |
| 137 | PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.        | 189 | VALDEZ, AMADO                     |
| 138 | PALACIOS, ALBERT S.            | 190 | VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.           |
| 139 | PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.      | 191 | VALDERRAMA, JASON ROMEO           |
| 140 | PANGILINAN, MANUEL E.          | 192 | VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.            |
| 141 | PANTALEON, OLIVER              | 193 | VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.              |
| 142 | PASCUAL, ABRAHAM               | 194 | VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.             |
| 143 | PAYUMO, FELICITO C.            | 195 | VILLARICA, HENRY R.               |
| 144 | PELIÑO, WILFREDO               | 196 | YAP, ENRIQUE JR.                  |
| 145 | PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.           | 197 | YORDANOV, STEFAN                  |
| 146 | PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.        | 198 | YU, GEOFFREY C.                   |
| 147 | PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.            | 199 | YU, REGINALD T.                   |
| 148 | PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.      | 200 | ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.   |
| 149 | PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.    | 201 | ZEITOUNI, NAGI                    |
| 150 | RA, INGILL                     | 202 | ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.               |
| 151 | RAMOS, CLAVER P.               | 203 | ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER               |

## ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



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CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,  
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND  
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION  
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



**Sta. Elena Golf Club**  
**JUNE 22, 2026 (MONDAY)**

**REGISTRATION: 6:00AM**  
**SHOTGUN TEE-OFF: 8:00AM**

**TOURNAMENT FEE**  
**PHP 9,000.00**

**Green Fee, Cart-sharing, Giveaways,  
Breakfast, Lunch & Raffles**

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RCMFI PROJECTS**



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Sagot ka ni  
**JuanHand**



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**Apex Mining Co., Inc.**

  
**NEW TRANSCEND**  
CONSTRUCTION



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**MABUHAY CAPITAL**

  
**Monde Nissin**

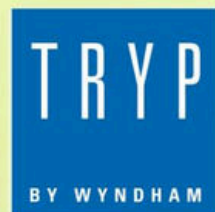
**iCare\***

**BRONZE**

**HOLE**

**R.G. Manabat & Co.**

**KPMG**



MALL OF ASIA  
MANILA



# PEOPLE

## **A *Builder* of Places, A *Shaper* of People**

***The Journey of  
Wilhelm “Bollie”  
Vorster Bolton  
Across Continents,  
Careers, and  
Callings***

*By PE Reginald T. Yu*



# A Builder of Places, A Shaper of People

*The Journey of Wilhelm “Bollie” Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*

**A** life shaped by war, refined by global hospitality, and fulfilled through service, Wilhelm “Bollie” Vorster Bolton’s journey is a testament to the quiet discipline of leadership and the enduring power of human connection. From the battlefields of Angola to the world’s most distinguished resorts, his story reveals a man who built more than places. He built people, purpose, and a legacy that continues far beyond the spaces he helped create.

There are men whose lives unfold along predictable lines — careers defined by titles, progress marked by promotions, and success measured in numbers.

And then there are men like **Wilhelm “Bollie” Bolton**.

His life does not read like a résumé. It unfolds instead as a narrative shaped by movement — across continents, across disciplines, across seasons of loss and renewal. It is a life defined less by position than by purpose.

To understand Bollie Bolton is to understand a paradox: a man shaped by the discipline of war and the humanity of hospitality. He has known environments where survival depended on precision, and others where success depended on empathy. In both, he learned the same truth — that excellence is not an act, but a habit formed over time.

From the plains of South Africa to the islands of the Philippines, from the silence of night operations to the quiet choreography of world-class service, his journey has been guided by a singular conviction: that what one builds matters — but who one builds along the way matters more.

# A Builder of Places, A Shaper of People

## *The Journey of Wilhelm "Bollie" Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*

### Beginnings in Harrismith

Bollie was born in South Africa, in a country that, at the time, stood at the crossroads of history and tension. He grew up in Harrismith, a modest town nestled in the heart of the country — a place where community mattered, where livelihoods were hard-earned, and where ambition often had to contend with circumstance.

His father, Johan Bolton, began as a welder, a profession rooted in grit and endurance. But Johan was not a man content with limitations. Recognizing the need to provide more for his family, he transitioned into insurance — a bold move that required not only skill but an understanding of people. Over time, his father's drive propelled him beyond mere stability into entrepreneurial success.

Johan Bolton would go on to open multiple establishments: restaurants such as Impala, Flamingo, and Mahem, as well as a fish-and-chips shop named Protea. These were not mere businesses; they were embodiments of character — each with its own theme, identity, and spirit.

For young Bollie, these spaces were more than places of commerce. They were classrooms. Here, he observed the interplay between service and

satisfaction, between effort and reward. He saw firsthand how food could bring people together, how ambiance could transform experience, and how attention to detail could define reputation.

It was in these formative years that the seeds of his lifelong passion for hospitality were quietly planted.



*A moment suspended in sunlight and laughter in 1960 — Bollie at eight, already protective and steady, beside Cecile at three, radiant with childhood ease. On the warm sands of Durban's South Coast, this simple scene captures more than a day at the beach; it reflects the quiet beginnings of a lifelong bond shaped by family, place, and memory.*

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### A Father’s Legacy and a Child’s Burden

Between 1960 and 1963, Johan Bolton served as mayor of Harrismith. Leadership, however, came at a cost. The demands of public office meant long hours, limited family time, and the constant weight of responsibility.

For Bollie, these years were marked by admiration and distance. He saw in his father a man driven not only by ambition but by a sense of duty — to his town, to his people, and to a vision larger than himself.

Then came the defining rupture.

At the age of 40, Johan Bolton passed away.

Bollie was only ten years old.

The loss was not merely emotional — it was existential. The family’s anchor had been removed, and the burden of survival fell squarely on his mother’s shoulders. She made the difficult decision to sell the family businesses, sacrificing legacy for security.

For Bollie, this moment would become a crucible.

Loss, at such a young age, has a way of reshaping one’s understanding of the

world. It instills urgency. It sharpens awareness. It compels a child to grow faster than time intends.

The family’s anchor had been removed, and the burden of survival fell squarely on his mother’s shoulders.



*A moment frozen in time — Bollie, standing leftmost, shares the frame with friends on Durban Beach in South Africa after completing their final year of high school in 1970. With the city skyline rising behind them and the shoreline alive with energy, the photograph captures more than youthful camaraderie; it reflects a turning point, where friendship, freedom, and the promise of what lies ahead meet under the warmth of the coastal sun.*

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Her name was Eva Vorster.

She had always been beside Johan in the restaurant business, working quietly behind the scenes, understanding not only the operations, but the people who sustained it. But in the wake of his passing, her role changed completely.

She became both father and mother.

With quiet resolve, she made the difficult decision to sell the family businesses, sacrificing legacy for stability. It was not a retreat, but a recalibration—an act of courage shaped not by ambition, but by responsibility.

Eva carried her children through those uncertain years with a depth of empathy that left a lasting imprint. She understood struggle not as an abstraction, but as a daily reality. And it was through that understanding that she guided Bollie and his sister through school, ensuring that opportunity would not be lost to circumstance.

For Bollie, her strength was not loud, but it was absolute.

In later years, when he would speak of leadership, of care, of the responsibility one holds toward others, traces of that influence would be unmistakable.



*A tender Christmas moment between Bollie and his late mother, Eva Vorster —captured in a warm exchange of love and laughter. Dressed in festive spirit, Bollie presents a gift as they lean in with affection, a simple yet profound gesture that speaks of gratitude, closeness, and the enduring bond between mother and son.*

### **War, Discipline, and the Making of a Leader**

The first night in the field, Bollie could not sleep.

The air was heavy — thick with the scent of dust and oil, of metal and men waiting. Somewhere in the darkness, a low hum of insects merged with the distant echo of movement that could have been wind... or something else entirely. In the military, uncertainty was not an exception. It was the atmosphere.

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He was young then. Too young, perhaps, to fully understand the magnitude of where he was — or what he was becoming.

South Africa's compulsory military service had taken him from the familiarity of Harrismith and dropped him into the South African Defence Force (SADF): a world governed by discipline, hierarchy, and consequence. There were no half-measures here. Orders were not suggestions.

Mistakes were not lessons — they were liabilities.

At first, he was simply another infantryman.

He learned quickly.

He learned how to move without sound, how to read terrain like language, how to trust instinct when information failed. He learned that fatigue was a constant companion, and that fear, when controlled, could sharpen rather than paralyze.

But what set Bollie apart was not just his ability to endure — it was his capacity to lead.

It was noticed.

From the ranks of infantry, he was selected for further training — elevated into the role of platoon leader within an

airborne specialized intelligence group. It was a transition that demanded more than physical strength. It required judgment, composure, and the ability to carry responsibility not just for oneself, but for others.

Men would follow his decisions.  
Men would live — or not — by them.

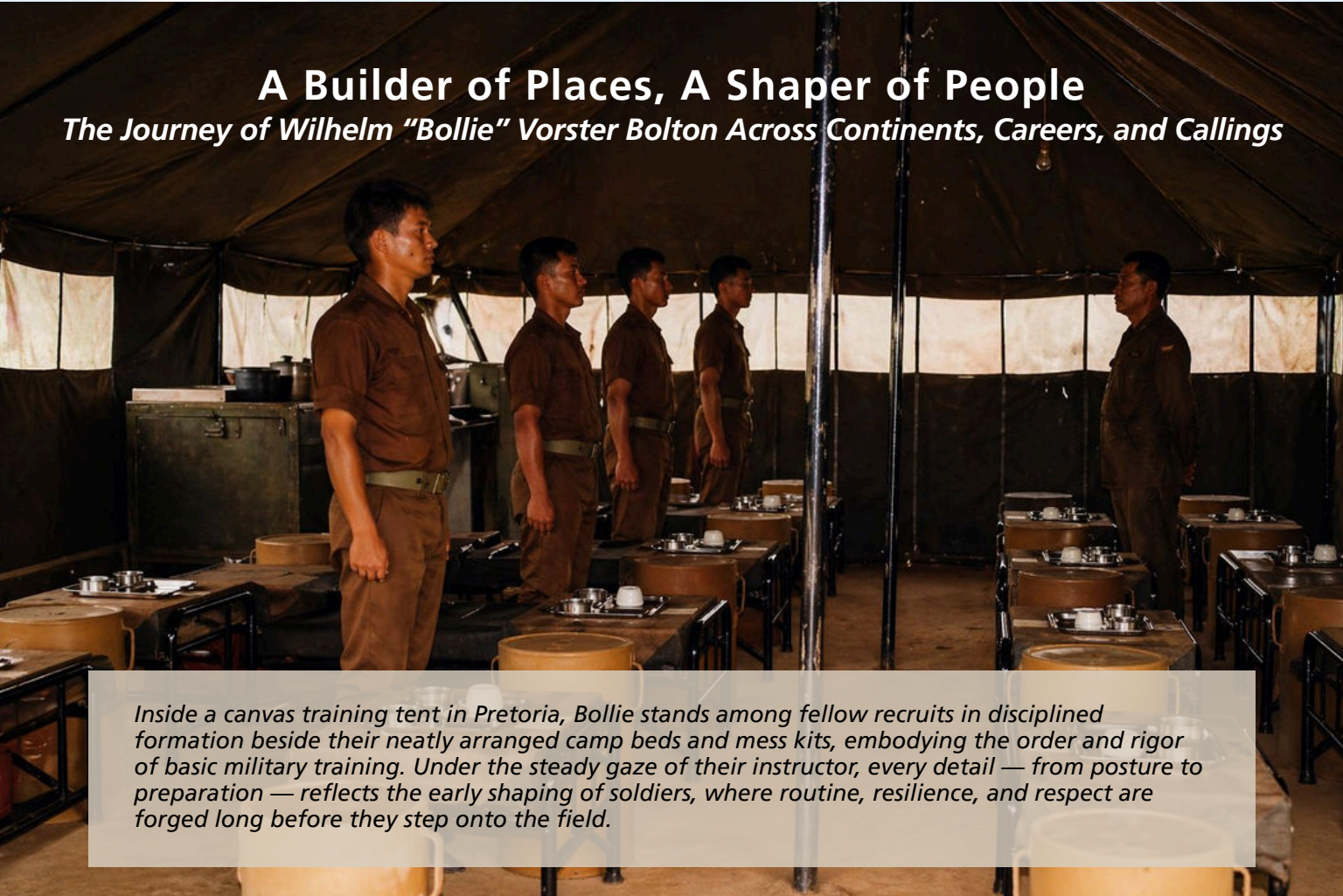
The conflict in Angola loomed over everything. It was not a distant headline; it was a lived reality. Their unit operated in terrain that was as unforgiving as the mission itself — dense bushlands, unpredictable



*A glimpse into Bollie's formative years at Harrismith High School in South Africa, where discipline, teamwork, and school spirit took early root. Set against the backdrop of a marching band in formation, the scene reflects a time of structure and camaraderie — foundations that would later shape his leadership style and enduring commitment to excellence.*

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*Inside a canvas training tent in Pretoria, Bollie stands among fellow recruits in disciplined formation beside their neatly arranged camp beds and mess kits, embodying the order and rigor of basic military training. Under the steady gaze of their instructor, every detail — from posture to preparation — reflects the early shaping of soldiers, where routine, resilience, and respect are forged long before they step onto the field.*

landscapes, and regions entangled in the complex web of the diamond trade.

Eventually, Bollie was chosen for something more.

A special forces battalion.

Selection was not ceremonial. It was earned through endurance, through proving that one could function when pushed beyond ordinary limits. By the time he entered that unit, Bollie had already begun to understand that the line between survival and failure was often

drawn in the smallest decisions — the extra step taken, the moment of hesitation avoided.

Their operations were often conducted at night.

Darkness was both cover and threat. It concealed movement, but it also concealed danger. There were no clear boundaries, no visible markers of safety. Every step required awareness. Every sound demanded interpretation.

In those hours, Bollie discovered

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something about himself.

He was not reckless.  
He was deliberate.

He learned to quiet his thoughts, to focus not on fear but on function. To trust preparation. To trust his men. And, perhaps most importantly, to ensure that his men could trust him.

The unit itself was unlike any he had known. It was a convergence of skill and survival — Portuguese mercenaries hardened by experience, Bushman trackers whose ability to read the land bordered on instinctive genius.

Bollie watched them closely.

From the trackers, he learned patience — the art of observing before acting. From the mercenaries, he saw the value of decisiveness — of committing fully once a course was chosen.

These were not lessons written in manuals.

They were absorbed in silence, in movement, in the shared understanding that in their world, hesitation could be fatal.

And yet, amid this environment of intensity and constant vigilance, there were moments — quiet, almost incongruous moments — that hinted at the man Bollie would later become.



*Bollie in uniform, off duty yet ever disciplined — taking a quiet moment to tend to his gear with steady focus. Even in rest, there is purpose: each stitch checked, each detail attended to, reflecting the quiet professionalism, self-reliance, and readiness that define a soldier's life beyond the field.*

# A Builder of Places, A Shaper of People

## *The Journey of Wilhelm "Bollie" Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*

Back at base camp, when operations paused and the tension briefly eased, Bollie would find his way to the kitchen.

It was not an assigned duty.

It was a choice.

There, among pots and pans, amid the rhythm of preparation rather than the urgency of execution, he found a different kind of focus. He helped prepare meals for the men — simple, hearty food meant to sustain those who had spent their days and nights navigating danger.

It was a small act.

But it mattered.

In a place defined by hardship, food became more than sustenance. It was comfort. It was familiarity. It was, in its own way, a reminder of humanity.

Bollie understood this instinctively.

Even then, he was not just thinking about survival.

He was thinking about people.

The war would leave its imprint on him — not in ways that could be easily articulated, but in ways that would



*Bollie stands in full combat uniform during the final phase of the South African Border War in 1989, a conflict intertwined with the Namibian War of Independence and the Angolan Bush War. Dressed in a nutria-brown bush hat, first-pattern shirt, and second-pattern trousers, he carries a Vektor R4 (5.56mm) assault rifle and wears Pattern 70/73 webbing complete with essential field gear. Behind him, a helicopter lifts through the dust, capturing the harsh, arid terrain where discipline, training, and resilience defined every mission.*

shape his instincts for the rest of his life.

It taught him that leadership was not about authority, but about accountability. It taught him that preparation was the foundation of confidence. It taught him that resilience was not the absence of difficulty, but the ability to move through it.

Years later, when the world would come to know of conflicts like Angola through

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films such as *Blood Diamond*, others would see dramatization.

Bollie would remember reality.

He would remember the silence before movement.

The weight of responsibility.

The clarity that comes when there is no room for error.

And perhaps most of all, he would carry forward an understanding that would define his life beyond the battlefield:

That in the harshest environments, what endures is not force —

but discipline, trust, and the quiet determination to take care of others, even when the world around you offers no such assurance.

### **A Fork in the Road**

When his military service concluded, Bollie stood at a crossroads.

He had developed a deep affinity for animals and initially aspired to become a veterinarian. His upbringing — surrounded by wildlife and the vast landscapes of South Africa — had instilled in him a profound respect for nature.



*Out in the open fields, Bollie shares a quiet moment with a companion beside their truck, the day's hunt in hand — a pheasant marking the reward of patience and skill. Against the wide, earthy landscape and overcast sky, the scene captures more than sport; it reflects camaraderie, tradition, and the unspoken bond formed in the stillness of the hunt.*

But life, as it often does, intervened.

Encouraged by friends and guided by practicality, Bollie chose a different path — one that would allow him to work while studying.

He enrolled in hotel management at WITS University, one of the few institutions offering such a program at the time.

# A Builder of Places, A Shaper of People

## *The Journey of Wilhelm “Bollie” Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*

It was a decision that would alter the trajectory of his life.

For three years, Bollie immersed himself in both academic study and hands-on training within a five-star hotel environment. He excelled, earning high marks and demonstrating an aptitude not only for operations but for leadership.

This dual education — of theory and practice — became the foundation upon which his future would be built.

### **The World as a Classroom**

Armed with education and ambition, Bollie set his sights beyond South Africa.

He joined Trust Houses Forte, beginning his international career as a receptionist. It was a humble entry point, but one that provided invaluable exposure to global standards of service.

In London, he worked at prominent establishments, including the Piccadilly Hotel and later as a concierge at the prestigious Dorchester. Here, he encountered a world of refinement and expectation — serving guests whose demands were exacting and whose standards were uncompromising.

He interacted with notable figures, from actors like Charles Bronson to literary

personalities, gaining insight into the nuances of high-end hospitality.

Yet Bollie was not content to remain static.

He pursued further education at the École Hôtelière de Lausanne in Switzerland — one of the world’s premier hospitality institutions. To support himself, he worked as a ski operator, demonstrating once again his willingness to combine effort with ambition.



*Bollie Bolton shares a moment with a Russian friend in Tallinn in 2017, captured during a night out in the countryside. Set against the quiet of the outdoors, the scene reflects a shared experience rooted in travel, friendship, and the stories that unfold when cultures meet far from home.*

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His journey took him to Sardinia, Italy, where he worked in Costa Smeralda — a region synonymous with luxury and exclusivity. It was here that he encountered figures like Jacqueline Onassis, serving her as a waiter — an experience that underscored both the privilege and responsibility of hospitality.

Each destination added a layer to his understanding.

Each role refined his instincts.

Each challenge strengthened his resolve.

### **Building, Losing, and Building Again**

When Bollie returned home from military service, the silence felt unfamiliar.

For years, his life had been dictated by command — by structure, urgency, and the constant presence of others moving in coordinated purpose. Now, in the stillness of civilian life, there were no orders to follow, no missions to complete, no immediate dangers to confront.

Only a question.

What now?

He found himself drawn once more to

the natural world — the landscapes of his youth, the quiet companionship of animals, the sense of balance that had once come so easily to him. There was something deeply appealing about the idea of becoming a veterinarian. It felt honest. Grounded. A life spent caring for living creatures, restoring health, preserving life.

It made sense.

And yet, something lingered beneath the surface — a restlessness he could not quite name.

It was during this period of uncertainty that conversations began to shape his thinking. Friends, observing both his temperament and his circumstances, nudged him toward a different path — one that would allow him to work while studying, to build something practical while still leaving room for growth.

At first, he resisted.

After all he had been through, the idea of returning to structured learning felt almost like a step backward. But the suggestion persisted, and gradually, it began to take hold.

Hotel management.

It was not an obvious choice.

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*A glimpse into Bollie's life in South Africa 43 years ago — set against a vast, untamed landscape where nature stretches endlessly beyond the horizon. In this moment of focus and solitude, the image reflects a younger Bollie immersed in the outdoors, capturing a chapter defined by independence, adventure, and the formative experiences that helped shape the man he would become.*

Or perhaps it was — though he had not yet fully recognized it.

Somewhere in his memory lingered the image of his father's restaurants — the hum of conversation, the rhythm of service, the quiet satisfaction of a well-run establishment. He had seen, even as a boy, how spaces could be transformed by attention and care, how people could be brought together through something

as simple as a shared meal.

Still, this was different.

This was not a childhood memory. This was a future.

He made the decision.

He enrolled at WITS University, committing himself to a program that

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was as demanding as it was unconventional — combining academic study with hands-on training in a five-star hotel environment.

From the very beginning, Bollie approached his studies the only way he knew how: with discipline.

Where others might have seen the classroom and the workplace as separate, he saw them as extensions of the same process. Theory informed practice. Practice sharpened understanding. There was no room for complacency.

If the military had taught him how to function under pressure, this new chapter taught him how to refine that pressure into precision.

He paid attention to everything. The way a guest was greeted. The timing of service.

The subtle coordination between departments that allowed a hotel to function seamlessly, almost invisibly, to those it served.

Hospitality, he realized, was not about grand gestures.

It was about consistency.

It was about anticipating needs before

they were expressed, about creating an experience so effortless that the effort behind it disappeared.

And slowly, almost without realizing it,

Bollie began to see himself differently.

He was no longer a soldier adjusting to civilian life.



*Bollie, in blue, sits at the table in a moment of quiet ease, surrounded by friends and the simple comforts of shared company. With a thoughtful, almost reflective expression, he anchors the scene — where conversation lingers, glasses rest half-filled, and time seems to slow in the warmth of familiar company and unspoken understanding.*

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He was a student of people.

He excelled.

His results were not merely good — they were exceptional.

But more than grades, it was his attitude that set him apart. He treated every task, no matter how small, as an opportunity to improve. Whether he was assisting in operations or observing management decisions, he absorbed lessons with the same intensity he had once applied to military training.

There were moments, of course, when doubt resurfaced.

Late nights. Long hours. The quiet question of whether he had chosen the right path.

But each time, he returned to the same realization: this was a world where effort translated into visible results. Where discipline mattered. Where leadership was not imposed, but earned.

And perhaps most importantly, it was a world where he could build.

Not in the sense of structures alone, but in the sense of experiences, of environments, of opportunities for others.

By the time he completed his three-year program, Bollie was no longer standing



*At 27, Bollie Bolton is captured in a moment of ease and quiet confidence, gathered with friends around a table filled with conversation and laughter. In a setting that feels both intimate and lived-in, the image reflects a young man already carrying a strong presence — grounded, observant, and at home in the company he keeps, as life unfolds in the simple richness of shared moments.*

at a crossroads.

He had chosen his direction.

And more than that — he had begun to understand that this path, once uncertain, held within it the possibility of something far greater than he had initially imagined.

It was not just a career.

It was a calling.

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*The Journey of Wilhelm “Bollie” Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*



*A portrait of Bollie in his early years as General Manager of Holiday Inn in South Africa — confident, composed, and already embodying the professionalism that would define his career. With a warm, assured smile and a presence that blends approachability with authority, the image captures a young leader in his prime, shaping his path in the world of hospitality with vision and quiet excellence.*

One that would take him far beyond the boundaries of South Africa, into a world that was waiting — though he did not yet know it — to be shaped by his vision.

## A New Home in the Philippines

He had always imagined China.

In Bollie’s mind, it was a place of scale and movement — an emerging frontier where ambition met opportunity, where a man with experience and vision could carve out something significant. For years, the idea lingered quietly in the background, like a destination deferred but never forgotten.

And then, unexpectedly, another door opened.

The Philippines.

It was not China. Not quite the dream he had pictured. But it was close enough — geographically, perhaps, but more importantly, symbolically. It was Asia. It was new. It was an invitation to begin again.

He accepted.

There is a particular kind of courage required to start over in a foreign land — not as a visitor, but as a builder. When Bollie arrived in the Philippines, he was not coming into a finished story. He was stepping into something still taking shape.

His first major role was in the pre-

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opening of Fontana Leisure Parks in Clark — a vast project that required more than technical knowledge. It demanded foresight. Coordination. The ability to imagine what did not yet exist and then bring it to life.

The site itself was still in transition — once tied to the legacy of a U.S. military presence, now being reimaged into a destination. There were plans, of course. Blueprints. Timelines. But plans alone do not create experiences.

People do.

From the outset, Bollie immersed himself not just in the physical development of the property, but in the human ecosystem that would sustain it. He worked with architects, engineers, suppliers, and operators — but just as importantly, he worked with the staff who would eventually carry the brand forward.

He observed.  
He listened.  
He adapted.

What struck him most was not the scale of the project, but the spirit of the people.

There was a warmth — genuine, unforced — that he had not encountered in quite the same way elsewhere. A resilience,

too, that revealed itself in quiet ways. People smiled, even in difficulty. They showed up, even when circumstances were not ideal. They found ways to move forward. For a man who had lived through loss, through war, through the unpredictable tides of business, this mattered.



*Bollie arrives on Sila Island, stepping onto its striking pink-tinged sands — naturally colored by crushed coral — marking the beginning of a vision brought to life. Beside the helicopter and the open sea, this moment captures more than a landing; it reflects the culmination of design, determination, and dream, as Bollie goes on to shape the island's future with the creation of eight exclusive luxury villas set against one of nature's most beautiful canvases.*

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More than he expected.

Fontana was not just another project. It was an entry point — a beginning. From there, opportunities began to unfold.

One project led to another, and then another. Bollie became known for something that few could replicate: the ability to take a concept — often abstract, sometimes incomplete — and turn it into a fully realized, functioning property.

Pre-opening was his domain.

It was, in many ways, the perfect synthesis of everything he had learned. The discipline of the military, the precision of European hospitality, the entrepreneurial instincts forged in South Africa — all converged in this phase of development where everything had to align.

Timing. Training. Execution. There was no room for error.

Over the years, his work would touch some of the most distinguished properties in the Philippines and beyond — resorts that would come to define luxury in the region. From the Maldivian-inspired elegance of Huma Island to the exclusivity of Banwa Private Island, from the cultural authenticity of

Eskaya in Bohol to the sprawling ambition of Balesin, Bollie’s influence became both visible and foundational.

Each project carried its own challenges.

Different locations. Different owners. Different visions.

But the underlying principle remained the same: create something that works — not just on paper, but in reality.

He was not interested in appearances alone.

He cared about systems. About training. About ensuring that when the doors opened, the experience matched the promise.

There is a moment, in every pre-opening, when anticipation gives way to reality.

The lights come on.  
The guests arrive.

And everything that has been planned, practiced, and prepared is put to the test.

Bollie lived for that moment.

Not because it was easy — but because it was definitive.

It was proof.

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Proof that vision could be translated into execution. That preparation could withstand pressure. That a team, when properly guided, could deliver excellence.

But beyond the projects, beyond the titles and accomplishments, something deeper was taking root.

The Philippines was no longer just a place of work.

It was becoming home.  
Years passed.  
Then decades.

Bollie found himself not just building resorts, but building relationships. Mentoring young professionals. Sharing knowledge. Helping others find their footing in an industry that demands both rigor and empathy.

He became part of the fabric of the local hospitality community — serving, contributing, and, in his own way, giving back to the country that had given him so much.

He would later speak often about what made the Philippines special — not in grand terms, but in simple truths.

The people.  
Their warmth.  
Their ability to remain hopeful, even in the face of adversity.



*Bollie shares a warm and cheerful moment with Mrs. Takako Okada, Owner and Vice Chairperson of Okada Manila, captured in an evening of elegance and connection. Their lighthearted gesture reflects not only mutual respect, but also the camaraderie found among leaders in the world of hospitality — where relationships are built as much on warmth as they are on excellence.*

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For a man who had seen both the harshest and the most refined aspects of life, this quality stood out.

It resonated.

And so, what began as an alternative to a long-held dream became something far more meaningful.

Not a detour.

But a destination.

A place where Bollie did not just continue his journey — but redefined it.

### **Philosophy of Hospitality**

It did not arrive all at once.

There was no single moment when Bollie declared, with certainty, what hospitality meant to him. No grand revelation, no defining speech. Instead, it revealed itself slowly — through years of observation, through quiet realizations, through the accumulation of experience across continents, cultures, and conditions.

It began, perhaps, in places he did not fully recognize at the time.

In his father's restaurants, where he first saw how people gathered — not just to eat, but to connect. In the military



*A taste of tradition and craftsmanship — Bollie shares a proud moment alongside a friend as they prepare boerewors, the beloved South African sausage made from ground beef, pork fat, and a distinctive blend of spices. Laid out in generous coils, the boerewors reflects more than culinary skill; it carries heritage, camaraderie, and the joy of creating something meant to be shared around the table.*

kitchen, where a simple meal could steady men who had faced the uncertainty of night operations. In the grand hotels of Europe, where every detail, no matter how small, contributed to an experience that felt seamless to the guest.

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Different environments.  
Different purposes.  
But the same underlying truth.

Hospitality was never just about the product.  
It was about the person.  
Bollie came to understand this not through theory, but through contrast.

He had seen what happened when systems were rigid, when service became mechanical, when people were treated as functions rather than individuals. It created efficiency, yes — but it lacked soul.

And he had seen the opposite.

Moments where a staff member anticipated a need before it was spoken. Where a small gesture — offered sincerely — transformed an ordinary interaction into something memorable. Where guests did not just feel served, but understood.

That, he realized, was the difference. And it could not be faked.

By the time he was deeply embedded in the Philippine hospitality landscape, this philosophy had begun to take clear shape — not as an abstract idea, but as a working principle that guided every project he touched.



*Bollie, during his tenure as Business Development Director of Lyceum of the Philippines University in 2013, stands alongside some of the country's top master chefs — a meeting of minds dedicated to elevating culinary and hospitality excellence. The moment reflects his active role in bridging industry and academia, fostering collaboration, and helping shape the next generation of professionals in the field.*

He would walk through properties not just with an operator's eye, but with a guest's instinct.  
He would ask questions others overlooked:

How does this space feel?  
What does the guest experience in the first five minutes?  
Does the staff understand not just what to do — but why it matters?

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He was not interested in perfection for its own sake.

He was interested in alignment.

The alignment between design and function.

Between service and expectation.

Between promise and delivery.

He knew that a beautiful property could fail if the service behind it was inconsistent. And he knew that even a modest environment could succeed if the people within it carried a genuine sense of care.

This belief began to influence not just how he operated, but how he led.

Training became central.

Not as a checklist, but as a process of transformation.

He spent time with staff — not just managers, but frontliners. He observed how they interacted with guests, how they communicated with each other, how they responded under pressure. And then, patiently, he worked to shape those interactions.

Not through force.

But through understanding.

“People need to know why,” he would often emphasize.

Why standards matter.

Why consistency matters.



*Bollie stands alongside Governor Jose Enrique “Joet” Garcia III of Bataan, both raising a single finger in a shared gesture of unity and purpose. Captured in a moment of ease and camaraderie, the image reflects a meeting of minds — where experience, leadership, and a common vision come together, grounded in service and a commitment to progress.*

Why the smallest details — often invisible to those who deliver them — are the very things that define the guest experience.



*La Jolla Hotel and Beach Resort in Bataan*

He understood something fundamental:  
that hospitality, at its highest level, is  
not scripted.

It is lived.  
And so, he invested not just in systems,  
but in people.

He mentored.  
He guided.

He shared not only technical knowledge,  
but perspective — lessons drawn from  
years of navigating both success and  
setback.

Many of those he trained would go on to  
build their own careers, carrying  
forward the principles he had instilled.  
In this way, his influence extended far  
beyond the properties he developed — it  
lived on in the people who had learned  
under him.

But perhaps the most distinctive  
evolution of his philosophy came in his  
embrace of sustainability.

For Bollie, this was not a trend.

It was a necessity.

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Having grown up close to nature, and having witnessed firsthand the impact of development — both its potential and its consequences — he became increasingly committed to a model of hospitality that respected the environment rather than exploited it.

He began to advocate for green, eco-friendly projects.

Carbon-free operations.

Zero-plastic initiatives.

These were not easy paths. They required innovation, coordination, and often a willingness to challenge conventional practices. But Bollie saw in them not only responsibility, but opportunity — the opportunity to redefine what luxury meant.

True luxury, he believed, was not excess. It was balance.

A property that coexisted with its surroundings.

An experience that felt immersive rather than imposed.

A system that sustained not only guests, but the environment and community around it.

This perspective found expression in many of his projects — resorts that integrated design with nature, that prioritized sustainability without compromising quality, that offered guests not just comfort, but connection.



*Bollie shares a fun and spirited moment with La Jolla's cheerful mascot, Pawi — short for "pawikan" (sea turtle) — capturing the playful side of hospitality. With smiles, thumbs up, and a sense of lighthearted energy, the scene reflects the welcoming atmosphere and family-friendly charm that La Jolla embodies — where every guest experience is meant to be warm, memorable, and full of joy.*



*Bollie shares a playful and endearing moment with his “best friend” during his time as General Manager at Huma Island Resort and Spa in Palawan. Set against a lush tropical backdrop, the scene captures a lighter side of leadership — where even in the midst of responsibility, there is room for curiosity, connection, and the simple joy of unexpected companionship.*

And yet, for all his experience, Bollie never positioned himself as having all the answers.

He remained, in many ways, a student.

Observing.  
Learning.  
Adapting.

Because the world of hospitality, like the world itself, is constantly evolving.

What does not change, however, is the core of his philosophy:

That hospitality is, at its heart, an act of care.

Not transactional.  
Not mechanical.  
But deeply human.

It is the quiet assurance that someone has thought ahead for you.

The subtle sense that you are seen, not just accommodated.  
The feeling, however fleeting, that you belong.

For Bollie, this was not merely a professional framework.

It was a way of life.

One shaped by experience, refined by reflection, and expressed — day after day, project after project — in the simple but enduring commitment to serve others well.

## **Leadership and Legacy**

There is a moment, often unseen, when a man realizes that his work is no longer just about what he builds — but about who he leaves behind to carry it forward.

For Bollie, that moment did not come in a boardroom, nor at the unveiling of a

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completed resort. It came quietly, over time — through conversations, through observations, through the steady realization that the people around him were beginning to reflect the very principles he had spent a lifetime refining.

He would notice it in small ways.

A young manager handling a difficult situation with calm precision.

A frontliner stepping forward,

unprompted, to solve a guest's concern.

A team that functioned not because they were instructed to — but because they understood what needed to be done.

These were not coincidences.

They were continuations.

By then, Bollie had long moved beyond the role of operator alone. He had become, almost by necessity, a mentor. Not in the formal sense of structured programs or prescribed lessons, but in the lived, daily practice of showing others what leadership looked like when it was grounded in experience.

His leadership style was not loud.

It did not rely on authority for its own sake.

Instead, it carried the quiet weight of someone who had seen enough to know that control is temporary — but influence endures.

He led the way he had learned in the most demanding environments: by example.

In the military, he had understood that men do not follow rank alone. They follow trust. In hospitality, he saw the same principle at work. Titles might define roles, but they do not inspire commitment.

Consistency does.

Integrity does.

Presence does.

And so, he made it a point to be present.

Not just in meetings, but on the ground — walking through properties, engaging with teams, observing operations as they unfolded in real time. He paid attention not only to outcomes, but to processes. Not only to what was achieved, but to how it was achieved.

When something went wrong — and it inevitably did — he did not look for someone to blame.

He looked for something to understand.

What broke down?

Where did communication fail?

What could be improved — not just for the moment, but for the future?

This approach, at first, surprised many who worked with him. In industries

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driven by timelines and expectations, the instinct is often to correct quickly, to move on, to maintain momentum.

Bollie did not resist momentum.

But he insisted on meaning.

He believed that every mistake carried within it an opportunity — not for criticism, but for clarity. And so, he taught.

Not through lectures, but through engagement. He would ask questions that forced reflection.

Why was this done this way?  
What would you do differently next time?  
What does the guest actually experience in this situation?

In answering, his teams began to think — not just react. And in thinking, they began to grow.

Over time, this approach created something far more valuable than efficiency. It created ownership. People began to take pride in their work — not because they were told to, but because they saw its impact. They understood that what they did mattered — not just to the business, but to the people it served.



*Bollie shares a proud and lighthearted moment with his La Jolla Hotel and Beach Resort team, united in spirit and purpose before a vibrant showcase of their premier destination. With smiles all around and fingers raised in a gesture of number one, the scene reflects not only the warmth of hospitality but the shared pride of a team committed to excellence, service, and the promise of memorable experiences by the sea.*

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For Bollie, this was the essence of leadership.

Not the accumulation of authority, but the distribution of responsibility.

He did not seek to be indispensable.

He sought to make others capable.

It was within this same spirit of shared responsibility and community that Rotary entered his life.

His Rotary journey began not in Manila, but in Clark, during a defining chapter of his professional career. As pre-opening General Manager of Fontana, he was immersed in the complexities of building something from the ground up — a process that required not only operational discipline, but the ability to unite people under a common vision.

It was there that he was first invited into Rotary.

Even in those early days, he was recognized not merely for his position, but for his capacity to contribute beyond it. He was selected to serve as a director — an early affirmation that leadership, in his case, extended naturally into service.

From Clark, his path led him to Tagaytay, where his role as Vice President for Days Inn brought him into another Rotary community. In the Rotary Club of

Tagaytay, he found a different rhythm — one grounded in fellowship, continuity, and the quiet discipline of service.

Rotary, for Bollie, was never about designation.

It was about connection.

And then came Manila.

His introduction to the Rotary Club of Manila came through Jack Rodriguez —



*A defining moment of shared purpose and vision — Bollie, alongside his long-time friend Jackie Rodriguez, marks the founding of the South African Friendship Society on November 3, 1996. Gathered among peers in an atmosphere of dialogue and engagement, the occasion reflects their commitment to fostering education, cultural exchange, and meaningful connection — laying the groundwork for a community built on learning, friendship, and mutual growth.*

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a gesture that would open the door to one of Rotary’s most storied institutions. It was not so much an arrival as it was a continuation, a natural extension of the values he had long practiced.

In Rotary, as in hospitality, Bollie found the same enduring truth:

That meaningful work is never done alone.

It is built through people.

Sustained by relationships.

Measured not only by what is achieved, but by how many lives are touched along the way.

This mindset extended beyond individual properties.

Through his involvement in organizations such as the Rotary Club of Manila, the Tourism Congress of the Philippines, and various international associations, Bollie found avenues to contribute on a broader scale.

These were not merely affiliations. They were platforms.

Platforms to share knowledge, to influence direction, to advocate for standards that would elevate the industry as a whole.

He spoke to students — young men and women standing at the same kind of crossroads he once faced. He judged

competitions, lent his expertise to development initiatives, and participated in discussions that would shape the future of tourism in the country.



*Bollie shares a moment of fellowship with Rotary Club of Manila Past President Jackie Rodriguez and former Ilocos Sur Governor and Congressman Chavit Singson during an RCM meeting. Captured in an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared purpose, the image reflects the convergence of leadership, experience, and enduring commitment to service that defines the Rotary spirit.*

# A Builder of Places, A Shaper of People

## *The Journey of Wilhelm “Bollie” Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*

In each of these roles, he carried the same conviction: That experience, if not shared, is wasted.

But perhaps the most enduring aspect of his legacy lies not in the institutions he has been part of, nor in the projects he has completed.

It lies in the people.

The professionals he has trained.  
The leaders he has influenced.  
The individuals who, having worked with him, carry forward a piece of his philosophy into their own work.

There are those who will remember his standards.  
Others will remember his discipline.

Many will remember his patience — the way he allowed them to learn, to make mistakes, to improve.

And some will remember something simpler, but perhaps more important:  
That he cared.

Not in a performative way, but in a manner that revealed itself over time — in the effort he invested, in the expectations he set, in the belief he extended to those willing to rise to it.

Leadership, in Bollie’s world, was never about being at the center.



*Bollie shares a relaxed moment with fellow Rotary Club of Manila colleague and tourism professional Mike Albaña over coffee at The Peninsula Manila. Set against the hotel’s grand and tranquil interiors, the scene captures a pause between engagements — where conversation flows easily, and shared experience in hospitality and service deepens a long-standing professional camaraderie.*

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*Bollie shares an elegant evening with Ms. Cory Quirino and distinguished friends, captured in a setting of refined hospitality and warm camaraderie. Surrounded by timeless interiors and gracious company, the moment reflects the relationships and shared circles that have long been part of Bollie’s journey — where connection, conversation, and mutual respect come naturally.*

It was about creating a system that could function — and thrive — even in one’s absence.

And so, as the years progressed, as projects were completed and new ones begun, as teams evolved and individuals moved on to build their own paths, Bollie found himself in a position that few reach with clarity.

He was no longer just building places.  
He was building people.

And in doing so, he ensured that his influence would extend far beyond the

span of his own career — carried forward not in structures of steel and stone, but in the habits, values, and standards of those who had learned under him.

That is the quiet power of legacy.

Not what is left behind — but what continues.

## **A Life Built Together**

It was in the Philippines that Bollie built not only a career, but a family.

He met Macy Tomas in Cebu, at a time

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when both were deeply immersed in their respective worlds of hospitality. Macy was then a district manager for Starbucks, part of a pioneering generation that would help shape the brand’s presence in the Philippines. Bollie, for his part, was involved in the development of Club Ultima and Crown Regency — projects he helped bring to life alongside the late Richard King.

Their meeting was not incidental.

It was a convergence of shared instincts.

Bollie had envisioned placing a Starbucks counter within the hotel lobby — an idea rooted in his understanding of how spaces could be enhanced not just by design, but by experience. Macy understood this immediately. She had lived that philosophy from the ground up, having begun her journey as a barista in Starbucks 6750 Ayala — the very first Starbucks store in the Philippines, which opened on December 4, 1997 — and later in Greenbelt.

From those beginnings, she would rise steadily, becoming part of the executive leadership of the Starbucks group in the Philippines. Since 2013, she has served as Human Resources Manager of Rustan Coffee Corporation, helping shape not just operations, but people — the very heart of the organization.



*The Bolton Family — Bollie, Macy, and Maia — captured in a warm and intimate moment that reflects the heart behind every achievement. Standing together with ease and affection, the image speaks of a shared journey grounded in love, support, and quiet strength — where family remains the constant source of inspiration through every chapter.*

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But beyond titles and achievements, what defined Macy was something deeper.  
She understood people.  
In this, she and Bollie were aligned.

They married the same year they met — twenty-one years ago — a decision that, like many in Bollie’s life, was guided not by hesitation, but by clarity.

Together, they built a life grounded not only in shared work, but in shared values.  
Their daughter, Maia Bolton, embodies that same spirit of discipline and expression.

An accomplished young woman, Maia has distinguished herself both academically and artistically. Currently in her second year studying medicine at Miriam College, she carries forward a sense of purpose that reflects both her parents’ influence.

But she is not defined by one path alone.

She sings.

Music, for Maia, is not merely an activity — it is a form of devotion. She serves in the church choir every Sunday and once led as captain of the Glee Club at Miriam, guiding others with the same quiet confidence that marks her own journey.



*Maia and Macy share a joyful moment during a memorable visit to South Africa, proudly wearing their colors for the Rugby World Cup. With flags painted on their cheeks and excitement in the air, the scene captures the spirit of the game — where family, national pride, and shared celebration come together in a moment of pure happiness.*

Her talent has taken her beyond the Philippines. In New Zealand, she was chosen to perform and earned a gold medal — an achievement that spoke not only to her ability, but to her discipline.

This year, she prepares to compete once more, this time in Prague, carrying with her both aspiration and the quiet strength instilled in her from home.

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**Maia Bolton**  
Gold medalist in taekwondo

*Maia Bolton, a proud member of the Miriam College Varsity Team and daughter of Bollie, beams with accomplishment after winning the gold medal at the Philippine Taekwondo Association Grand Tournament in 2026. Captured in a moment of triumph, the image reflects not only her discipline and dedication to the sport, but also the strength of character and perseverance that define a true champion.*

She has also excelled in Taekwondo, earning a gold medal — a reflection of the same discipline that defined her father’s early years, now expressed in a different arena.

In many ways, Maia represents a convergence.

Of Bollie’s discipline.  
Of Macy’s empathy.  
Of a family shaped not by circumstance alone, but by intention.

For Bollie, the journey that brought him across continents and callings ultimately led here.  
To a life not built alone, but together.

## A Life of Meaning

There is a moment, often unseen, when a man realizes that his work is no longer just about what he builds — but about who he leaves behind to carry it forward.

For Bollie, that moment did not come in a boardroom, nor at the unveiling of a completed resort. It came quietly, over time — through conversations, through observations, through the steady realization that the people around him were beginning to reflect the very principles he had spent a lifetime refining.

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He would notice it in small ways.

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unprompted, to solve a guest’s concern.

A team that functioned not because they were instructed to — but because they understood what needed to be done.

These were not coincidences.

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By then, Bollie had long moved beyond the role of operator alone. He had become, almost by necessity, a mentor. Not in the formal sense of structured programs or prescribed lessons, but in the lived, daily practice of showing others what leadership looked like when it was grounded in experience.

His leadership style was not loud.

It did not rely on authority for its own sake.

Instead, it carried the quiet weight of someone who had seen enough to know that control is temporary — but influence endures.

He led the way he had learned in the most demanding environments: by example.

In the military, he had understood that



*Bollie stands proudly on stage at Best Western Plus Metro Clark in Angeles City, honored with the Mabuhay Award for Excellence in Hospitality during the 2025 Tres Awards in March 2026. Holding his citation with quiet pride, the moment reflects a lifetime of dedication to the craft of hospitality — where vision, service, and an unwavering commitment to guest experience come together in well-earned recognition.*

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men do not follow rank alone. They follow trust. In hospitality, he saw the same principle at work. Titles might define roles, but they do not inspire commitment.

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What broke down?

Where did communication fail?

What could be improved — not just for the moment, but for the future?

This approach, at first, surprised many who worked with him. In industries driven by timelines and expectations, the instinct is often to correct quickly, to move on, to maintain momentum.



*Bollie is honored as Asian Leader in Hospitality Management Excellence at the 2025 Asia's Golden Icon Awards, a recognition that underscores his enduring impact on the industry. This distinction reflects decades of visionary leadership, operational excellence, and an unwavering commitment to elevating hospitality standards — cementing his legacy as a respected figure not only in the Philippines, but across the region.*

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He believed that every mistake carried within it an opportunity — not for criticism, but for clarity.

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He did not seek to be indispensable.  
He sought to make others capable.  
This mindset extended beyond individual  
properties.

Through his involvement in  
organizations such as the Rotary Club of



*A testament to his respected standing in the industry, Bollie served as a judge for the Front of House category at the 18th Mabuhay Awards in 2013. This role reflects the trust placed in his expertise and discerning eye — recognizing not only his deep understanding of hospitality operations, but also his commitment to upholding excellence in guest service and professional standards.*

Manila, the Tourism Congress of the Philippines, and various international associations, Bollie found avenues to contribute on a broader scale.

These were not merely affiliations. They were platforms. Platforms to share knowledge, to influence direction, to advocate for standards that would elevate the industry as a whole.

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crossroads he once faced. He judged competitions, lent his expertise to development initiatives, and participated in discussions that would shape the future of tourism in the country.

In each of these roles, he carried the same conviction:

That experience, if not shared, is wasted.

But perhaps the most enduring aspect of his legacy lies not in the institutions he has been part of, nor in the projects he has completed.

It lies in the people.

The professionals he has trained.  
The leaders he has influenced.  
The individuals who, having worked with him, carry forward a piece of his philosophy into their own work.

There are those who will remember his standards.

Others will remember his discipline.  
Many will remember his patience — the way he allowed them to learn, to make mistakes, to improve.

And some will remember something simpler, but perhaps more important:  
That he cared.

Not in a performative way, but in a



*A recognition of both expertise and influence, Bollie was awarded a Plaque of Appreciation as a Distinguished Speaker at the 10th EdukCircle International Convention on Business, Tourism and Hospitality in 2017. Held at the University of the Philippines Diliman, the honor reflects his ability to inspire, educate, and share real-world insights — bridging industry experience with the next generation of hospitality professionals.*

manner that revealed itself over time — in the effort he invested, in the expectations he set, in the belief he extended to those willing to rise to it.

Leadership, in Bollie’s world, was never about being at the center.



## ASIA'S INFLUENTIAL LEADER AWARDS

**MR. WILHELM BOLTON**

CEO - Hospitality Management

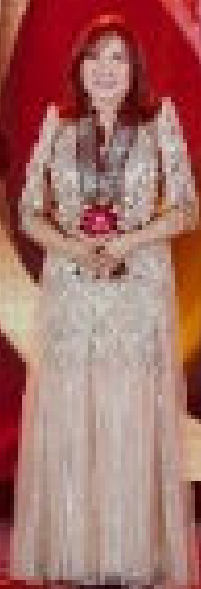
COO - ADO BW Philippines

GM - La Jolla Beach Resort

"Asia's Outstanding Leader in  
Business Development and Hospitality"

March 11, 2026 | Grand Ballroom

*Bollie receives the Asia's Influential Leader Award, presented by Undersecretary Vidal Villanueva and Congresswoman Marissa Del Mar Magsino, in a moment that celebrates both achievement and influence. Framed by a grand stage and a distinguished audience, the recognition honors his leadership in hospitality — marked by vision, innovation, and a lasting impact on the industry and the communities he serves.*



It was about creating a system that could function — and thrive — even in one's absence.

And so, as the years progressed, as projects were completed and new ones begun, as teams evolved and individuals moved on to build their own paths, Bollie found himself in a position that few reach with clarity.

He was no longer just building places.

He was building people.

And in doing so, he ensured that his influence would extend far beyond the span of his own career — carried forward not in structures of steel and stone, but in the habits, values, and standards of those who had learned under him.

That is the quiet power of legacy.

Not what is left behind —  
but what continues.

# A Builder of Places, A Shaper of People

*The Journey of Wilhelm “Bollie” Vorster Bolton Across Continents, Careers, and Callings*



*A joyful portrait of Bollie's family in South Africa — spanning generations and bound by warmth, laughter, and shared roots. Gathered in the embrace of nature, the image reflects the heart behind the man: a legacy not only of leadership and achievement, but of family, love, and the enduring connections that ground it all.*

## Epilogue: The Enduring Flame

Wilhelm “Bollie” Bolton’s story is not one of linear success.

It is a story of cycles — of building and losing, of rising and rebuilding, of dreaming and redefining.

It is a story of a boy shaped by loss, a soldier forged in discipline, a professional refined by global experience, and a leader defined by purpose.

In the end, his legacy is not measured solely in resorts or awards, though there are many.

It is measured in the lives he has touched, the standards he has set, and the enduring belief that excellence — true excellence — is built not in moments, but over a lifetime.

And in that lifetime, Bollie Bolton has left an indelible mark on the world of hospitality — and on the people fortunate enough to encounter him along the way. ■

## Event Schedule

**DISCON & AWARDS NIGHT** Rotary District 3810 **UNITE FOR GOOD**

 **MAY 22-24, 2026**  **LE PAVILION PASAY CITY**

Early Bird – Until March 15, 2026  
Php 7500 DisCon & Awards Night

Regular Rate – March 16 to April 15, 2026  
Php 8500 DisCon & Awards Night

**MEALS INCLUDED**  
May 22 & 23 PM Snack & Dinner  
May 24 Lunch, PM Snack & Dinner

**ACCOUNT DETAILS**  
Bank: Metrobank  
Account No. :271-727154-395-2  
Account Name: Rotary D3810  
Team Unity Corp

**NO ONSITE REGISTRATION**

**REGISTER NOW** → PP Nella Seril (09175260220)  
Chairperson for Promotion



**DAY 1  
MAY 22**

- 7:00 am UCP Breakfast, by invitation  
Le Parc | UCP Uniform
- 7:00 am PE Breakfast, by invitation  
Le Parc | ICP Uniform
- 10:00 am Business Meeting | Le Parc
- 10:00 am Opening of Trade Exhibits | Le Pavillon
- 1:00 pm Opening Ceremonies | Business Attire
- 6:00 pm Talent Night | Cocktail dress | Business Attire

**DAY 2  
MAY 23**

- 10:00 am Youth Program
- 1:00 pm Plenary Session | Filipiniana | Barong Tagalog
- 6:00 pm Parade of Nations | Filipiniana | Barong Tagalog

**DAY 3  
MAY 24**

- 9:00 am - 5:00 pm District Awards  
Tuxedo | Long Gown  
Governor's Ball
- 6:00 pm Tuxedo | Long Gown (any color except for Royal Blue, Raspberry Pink and Gold)

# DISCON 2026

## DISTRICT ACTIVITY

### Manila Rotarians Attend Impact Creating Team Fellowship

Manila Rotarians, namely, DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday, President Raoul Creencia and PE Reggie Yu attended the Impact Creating Team Fellow of Rotary District 3810 under DGE Bing Carrion last April 30, 2026 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel in Manila. The Impact Creating Team is composed of the Executive Committee, District Officers and Presidents-Elect who will all begin their terms this July 1, 2026, the start of RY 2026-2027.

DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra takes on a new role as Chief Governor's Adviser. Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday will be Deputy Assistant District Public Image Coordinator. President Raoul Creencia will be both Contributing Editor to the Governor's Monthly Letter and a member of the District Special Concerns Group. PE Reggie Yu will be assuming his new role as President of the Rotary Club of Manila for RY 2026-2027.



*DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra engaged in a conversation with President Raoul Creencia.*



*DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra with fellow Past and Future District Governors together with their respective spouses.*

## DISTRICT ACTIVITY

### Manila Rotarians Attend Impact Creating Team Fellowship



*Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday with the District Public Image Committee and DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra as part of the EXECOM for RY 2026-2027*



*Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday with the District Public Image Committee for RY 2026-2027*

## DISTRICT ACTIVITY

### Manila Rotarians Attend Impact Creating Team Fellowship



*PE Reggie Yu with his fellow  
Impact Creating Presidents in a group picture*



*PE Reggie Yu  
getting his  
Manila Hotel  
Prestige  
Discount Card  
from DGE Bing  
Carrion*



*DGE Bing  
Carrion with  
her Chief  
Governor's  
Adviser  
DGND/DSG  
Hermie  
Esguerra*



## COGS IN THE WHEEL



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra with RIPE Yinka Babalola taken at One Rotary Center, Chicago, Illinois during the **More Miles Less Polio** last April 19, 2026.

## PUBLIC IMAGE

### Rotary District 3810's “Handog Makeover District Dental Mission” Participated by Manila Rotarians Featured in Manila Times

**C6** | SATURDAY April 25, 2026 **Lifestyle** The Manila Times  
www.manilatimes.net

#### Rotary's 'Handog Makeover' gives Jobseekers a fresh start

**Rotary District 3810** **UNITE FOR GOOD**

**DISTRICT DENTAL MISSION**

**HI SOCIETY**  
BECKY GARCIA

Meanwhile, Rotary International District 3810, led by Mary Mei Rodrigo and conceptualized by Joyce Ambray, held its Handog Makeover District Dental Mission on March 31, 2026, at Viridian Greenhills Social Hall. The initiative supported nearly 50 jobseekers ages 16 to 35, providing dentures, dental care, grooming, styling and professional ID photos to boost confidence and employability. In partnership with PAFJO TMJ OFF Inc., volunteer dentists completed weeks of oral rehabilitation, culminating in the final smile transformations during the event. Participants also received corporate attire and mock job interview training from the Rotary Club of Manila, helping them prepare for real-world opportunities. More than a dental mission, Handog Makeover restored dignity and confidence — proving that a renewed smile can open doors to a brighter future.

**Dentists Partner of Rotary District 3810-PAFJO-TMJ OFF front row - Dr. Ailyn Mendoza, Dr. Joyce Ambray, Dr. Shiela Cobcobo, back row - Dr. Mildred Ang, Dr. Ruth Javellana, Dr. Joy Garcia, Dr. Cora Aguinaldo-Rodis, Dr. Gina Hagan, Dr. Marissa Pasajol.**

**Patient with District Governor Nominee Designate Hermie Esguerra**

**Denture installation by Dr. Isabel Mendoza**

**Turnover of funding from Rotary International (from left), PDG Joyce Ambray, DG Mary Mei Rodrigo, Gretchen Laurel, Rotary International fund development specialist & Dr. Isabel Mendoza, PAFJO-TMJ OFF President**

**Past District Governor Dr. Joyce Ambray, District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo, Dr. Joy Garcia, Dr. Marissa Pasajol, Dr. Gina Hagan, Dr. Shiela Cobcobo, Dr. Cora Aguinaldo-Rodis with the very happy patient.**

**Present were senior leaders with Rotary Club of Manila members of Rotary International District 3810**  
Seated- Lady Peaches Pasion, Ms. Gretchen Laurel, PDG Joyce Ambray, PDG Ernie Choa, PDG Josie Ang, Lady Celene Choa.  
Standing - Chief of Staff George Ng, Rotarian Mike Albana, Rotarian Albert Alday, District Governor Nominee Jun Pasion, District Governor Nominee Designate Hermie Esguerra, Rotarian Teddy Tee President elect Reggie Yu, District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo, First Gentleman Alex Rodrigo, Rotarian Anton Mauricio, Past President Jujut Enriquez. Also present were Past District Governor Robert Koa and Lady Arlene Koa.

The Manila Times feature of the Handog Makeover District Dental Mission of Rotary District 3810 for RY 2025-2026 headed by DG Mary Mei Rodrigo as part of its Public Image campaign where many Manila Rotarians participated in last March 31, 2026 at the Viridian in Greenhills, San Juan City.



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## **RCM OFFICE**

**543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.**  
**Ermita, Manila**  
**Tel. No. 8527-1885**  
**Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org**

[www.rcmanila.org](http://www.rcmanila.org)