



A busy year ahead for AFFLIP

latest news and updates

Message from the Chair

Thank you very much for your continuing support of AFFLIP. Without you we couldn't function as successfully as we do.

My name is Yvonne Zeegers and as the incoming Chair of AFFLIP I'd like to introduce myself. I have been an educator for my entire career. I am currently an adjunct with the University of South Australia, and a Director on the Board of Educators SA. I have been an AFFLIP Board member for the last 6 years.

I would like to sincerely thank the outgoing chair and co-founder of AFFLIP, Alastair Douglas. Ali has provided outstanding leadership as Chair, and has been supportive, thorough, and focused in everything he did. Fortunately for the AFFLIP, Ali has agreed to continue as a Board Member and as Immediate Past Chair, a member of the Executive. (A position designed to assist the incoming Chair). I look forward to meeting and working with you in 2024.

Yvonne Zeegers, AFFLIP Chair

2024 Gala Fundraiser a great success

On Friday 23rd February AFFLIP held its 12th annual fundraising gala at the National Wine Centre. Over 250 guests attend to support the foundation in its work. The scene was set by a fabulous video message from Talomo District schools highlighting the positive impact of AFFLIPs support for their students and educators. Chairman, Alastair Douglas, welcomed those in attendance and provided an overview of the work of AFFLIP in 2023.

A huge range of silent and live auction items proved a hit with supporters. Once again auctioneer Geoff Schell and his team ensured that no bids were missed as we reached just the fabulous figure of just over \$30 000 raised across the evening.

Guests were entertained by the incredibly talent local band Germein (Clara, Ella and Georgia Germein) and local Filipino entertainers. The food and wine could not be faulted.

Thank you to all AFFLIP partners and contributors who not only made this event so successful but also ensures that the work in the Talomo District continues to have impact on children’s lives. Thanks also to the National Wine Centre for their ongoing support with this function.

The biggest thanks to event organisers [Guy Wilson](#) and his team for a very successful evening.



Empower a Child's Future: Sponsor a Scholarship

Did you know that in this school year (2023-24), we have 300 pupils on the AFFLIP Scholarship Program?

This is an impressive number given that when the scholarship program started in 2013, we were able to support only 30 pupils.

That we have come so far in funding much greater scholarship numbers, is solely due to the direct support from our many sponsors, most of whom are individuals and families, as well as some wonderful corporate sponsors.

These scholarships are awarded to support some of the most disadvantaged students from the 15 Elementary (Primary) Schools in the Talomo District of Davao City. These are well performing pupils in Primary school who are deemed at risk of leaving school in Grades 4,5 or 6 due to their very poor family circumstances.

Every scholarship holder is supported and encouraged by their parents, the hard working and dedicated school principals, teachers, and coordinators as well as a separate group of Principals and teachers who comprise a Technical Working Group to oversee the scholarship program on our behalf.

The impact of these scholarships is profound. The funds provide for basic needs such as uniforms, shoes, books, and other school items as well as fees for other activities run through the schools. \$100 AUD will support a child for a full year of schooling, and we encourage our sponsors to support each child through Grades 4, 5 and 6 to help launch them into secondary school.

So, \$300 AUD will support a single scholar through the 3-year scholarship program and into High School.

This school year will finish on 31st May 24. The new school year (24-25) will commence sometime in July this year. We want to be able to sponsor 300 scholars next year and beyond. So, with the end of financial year looming in Australia, now is a good time to consider setting aside some charitable funds for this worthy cause. Or, if you are already a scholarship sponsor, now is a great time to consider renewing your highly valued ongoing commitment.

If you are interested in joining our sponsorship group, we warmly welcome potential new sponsors to check all details regarding the scholarship program on our website: afflip.com.

Loch Mitchell, Scholarship Coordinator

Summer Camp sow seeds of success!

Readers will remember last October newsletter report on the second summer camp supported by AFFLIP. The camp aims to support students to be better prepared to qualify for Philippine Science High School or Department of Science and Technology Scholarships.

We were excited to report that last year two students were successful but this year we can tell you that nine students have qualified for scholarships. To put this in perspective these 9 students come from 7 different schools and it is the first time that these schools have ever produced PhilSci Scholars. Philippines Science High School is the most sought-after school, and it only has one campus in Southern Mindanao at Mintal. Only the best and brightest can enter the school and it has very limited enrollees. The scholarship will provide book allowance and all expenses for junior high school (Grades 7-10)

It is true that all the children who have taken part in summer camp have enjoyed the opportunity to learn at a more challenging and sophisticated level. Those children who have gained scholarships will have an amazing opportunity to follow their dreams. It is potentially lifechanging for these children and their families.

360 laptops delivered to the Talomo Schools!

In what was a threshold moment for the Digital Learning Project, final supply agreements were executed between AFFLIP and Australian not-for-profit Lite-Haus International, and so 360 laptop computers were installed in the 15 schools of the Talomo district in December 2023.

The AFFLIP Board expresses its full appreciation to Rajesh Yohannan, CEO of Axi, and principal sponsor of this project. We warmly acknowledge that Axi's decisive early commitment to the project's vision has clearly been the funding catalyst which transformed the Digital Learning Project from being a dream 12 months ago to now being an imminent innovation across the Talomo schools. Digital empowerment for students in less-privileged settings is an ethical principle that Axi and AFFLIP are enacting with determination, mutual commitment, and clear strategic intent.

Following Axi's lead, significant additional sponsorship donations from the Ryan Family Trust, Gerard and Pauline McCabe, Annette and Damian Conn, Nicola and Paul Godwin, and Bill Britten-Jones have resulted in a current project funding commitment of \$131,500 towards our full target of \$150,000. If any readers are motivated to help us cross the finish line with this exciting new flagship program, please write to Tim at tim.ryan@afflip.com, or call him on 0419 865 035.

Of undoubted interest to our AFFLIP membership is the actual model by which LiteHaus supplies its computer laboratories. Already, through Papua New Guinea and recently in the Kidapawan region of Mindanao, the Townsville-based foundation has installed over 200 school computer labs, certainly a praiseworthy achievement for Jack Growden and his team.

Refurbished laptops are sourced from first world corporations with new solid-state drives replacing the original hard drives in these devices. There is an impressive array of digital learning resources pre-packaged and installed on the devices, including the Niunet library and teacher guidance materials. The LiteHaus model includes installation of the labs, device maintenance through repair or replacement for three years and supports teacher induction and training.

AFFLIP's Digital Reference Group members include Susan Boucher, Bruce White and Brian Nielsen. The group has been represented by Bonnie Ryan, Chris Sampson and Tim Ryan, who have worked closely with Talomo counterparts Ma'am Marilyn Marcelo, Dexter Lamparas and Felix Suico to bring this opportunity together. Chris Sampson alerted us all to the work that Jack Growden has been doing. The laptop supply partnership is eagerly anticipated by all parties engaged with the project.

Under the leadership of Ma'am Marilyn, Dexter and Felix, Grade 6 teachers are now a few months in to using the laptops in regular digital literacy class learning experiences. Dr Bruce White is to deliver a day-long Digital Learning workshop for all teachers and

co-ordinators in the 15 Talomo schools in the upcoming Board delegation visit to Davao City.

Bonnie Ryan and Tim Ryan, Digital Partnerships Co-Coordinator



Interested in supporting AFFLIP's work?

We would love to hear from you.



Click on the link below if you want to learn more about AFFLIP's work.

Contact Us

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Check out AFFLIP's website 

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