

**afflip** australian foundation  
for fostering learning  
in the philippines inc.



# July 2024 Newsletter

## latest news and updates

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Since our major fundraiser in February a number of board members have visited to the Philippines to continue professional learning programs for teachers and see firsthand the work of our ongoing projects have both been highly successful. The visit by board members to Talomo District once again highlighted the outstanding impact of our scholarships program.

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### From the Chair

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The AFFLIP Board has been rather busy since our last newsletter.

In April, five of us spent 10 days in Talomo Districts A and B, in Davao City. Additionally, our Immediate past Chair, Ali Douglas spent a few days in Manila, prior to coming to Talomo, meeting with current and potential sponsors.

Our key focus was to evaluate two of our AFFLIP programs against our aims and objectives: the Guided Reading using book boxes program (GRUBB), sponsored by the Magic Libraries Foundation in Geneva, and the schools learning network (SLN). It was also heartening to see the progress of the work in our three other portfolios, Health and Nutrition, the Outdoor Learning Education Program (OLEP), and the Digital Learning program (still in its infancy in Talomo but is showing rapid progress).

In mid-June, immediate past Chair, Ali and I gave a presentation on AFFLIP to the Flinders University of the Third Age, in their Ascot Park Hall. A lot of interest was shown, and some tough but fair questions asked!

In the new financial year the Digital Learning team, ably led by Tim Ryan and Bonnie Ryan intend to provide more laptops to Talomo schools and Jeanette Emery and Max Greenwood will conclude the very successful GRUBB professional development program.

**Save the date:** The events committee, ably led by Loch Mitchell and Tim Ryan, has set Friday February 14th, 2025, as the date for our annual fundraiser dinner dance. This will be held at the National Wine Centre. (We thank them for their ongoing generous support of this event) Many thanks also to Guy Wilson for his previous leadership of the Events committee and for his advice and guidance in support of our 2025 event.

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## April visit to Talomo District by AFFLIP

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AFFLIP board members, Yvonne Zeegers, Bruce White, Max Greenwood, Jeanette Emery, and Alastair Douglas were warmly welcomed by school leaders and teachers of the Talomo District, Davao City, in April. It was an opportunity to see and hear firsthand the progress of our flagship programs.

Max and Jeanette conducted the third phase of the Guided Reading Program, running workshops and evaluation meetings with all the school coordinators. (see update below)

Bruce, Yvonne and Ali undertook either the evaluation, or review, of five of the flagship programs: The Schools Learning Network (SLN); the Guided Reading program (GR); the Digital Literacies program (DLP); the Outdoor Learning Program (OLEP) and, Health and Nutrition (H and N).

Board members were involved in visits to all 15 of AFFLIP sponsored schools in Talomo, and meetings with the Talomo administrators, the Flagship Program coordinators and their technical Working Groups (TWGs). Workshops were also conducted with the school-based Program Coordinators from the flagship programs. These provided useful insights into the implementation of our programs in the schools. Meetings were also held with a range of Schools Division Superintendent representatives, Talomo District Supervisors, the President of the University of South Eastern Philippines (USEP) and a representative of SMEC.



## Guided Reading Program Empowers Talomo District Schools

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In April, board members and coordinators of the literacy portfolio, Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery, visited Talomo District schools for the third time to continue AFFLIPs commitment to the roll out of the Guided Reading Using Book Boxes (GRUBB) program.

The focus of this visit was to review the progress of GRUBB, support its extension into year 6 classrooms, improve instructional leadership of GRUBB through the use of observation and feedback and commence the delegation of GRUBB ownership to the Talomo District.

This very busy agenda included two workshops with over 75 participants in total. Workshop 1 was a review of the GRUBB program and workshop 2 focused on extending the guided reading strategy into year 6 classrooms. Max and Jeanette also worked with 10 schools and mentors to develop their observation skills and feedback strategies to support the effective implementation of the GRUBB initiative. Scholastic Short Read kits were introduced and distributed to all 15 schools to be used as the resources to implement Guided Reading in the Year 6 classes. Funding for these kits was provided by the Magic Libraries Foundation based in Switzerland

All 15 schools have now embraced the GRUBB initiative in all Year 4 and Year 5 classes. Max and Jeanette observed the excitement of students and teachers as they participated in the Guided Reading lessons. Early testing results are indicating a significant improvement in students' attitude to reading.

This project has been a story of successful professional collaboration between AFFLIP, Talomo District Schools and Magic Libraries Foundation and at the end of this project, we can report that:

- More than \$90,000 was allocated to Talomo District Schools for Guided Reading Resources
- 320 school heads and teachers trained face to face in Guided Reading
- 6713 students are benefitting from Guided Reading instruction
- 26,880 books and short reads are in Year 4-6 classes in the Talomo District
- More than \$36,000 has been invested in 20 teachers visiting Adelaide schools to learn about literacy in an Australian context and apply their knowledge on return.

AFFLIP looks forward to seeing the Talomo schools lead this work into the future.

Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery  
Professional Development: Literacy Coordinators

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## How can I sponsor an AFFLIP Scholar?

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Scholarships are an important part of the work that AFFLIP does to support some of the most disadvantaged students in Talomo District stay in school. We had 270 pupils on the scholarship program in the 2022-23 school year. With the 2023-24 school year imminent your support, ongoing or new is appreciated. If you would like to learn more about supporting the scholarship, follow the link below

Loch Mitchell  
Scholarship Coordinator

[Learn More about Scholarships](#)

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## SAVE THE DATE: 2025 AFFLIP Dinner and Fundraiser

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Please mark Friday 14th February 2025 at the National Wine Centre in your diary. More information to come.



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## 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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