

afflip australian foundation
for fostering learning
in the philippines inc.



Dec 2024 Newsletter

latest news and updates

From the Chair

Hello Everyone,
I hope you have had a good week.

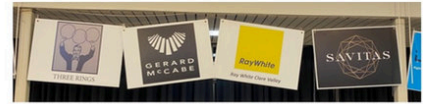
The AFFLIP Board has had a busy time during late October/early November, preparing for, then hosting our eight visiting delegates from Talomo Districts A and B, in Davao City. (one District Supervisor, and 7 Classroom teachers who are also reading coordinators in their schools). The team came to learn about Guided Reading practices in SA schools. They were amazed and entranced by our blooming Jacaranda trees throughout Adelaide city and suburbs. It became a happy game of who can spot a Jacaranda first, as we drove from school site to school site! My sincere thanks to those who hosted the delegates, (board and non-board), and to those who transported them to the various sites. My thanks to Literacy Board members Max and Jeanette, who ran the program.

To coincide with the delegation visit, AFFLIP hosted a Chairs Reception at the Unley Civic Centre. This annual reception is to specifically thank our generous sponsors, both Corporate and personal, for their contributions. Without these, AFFLIP could not operate. We wholeheartedly thank each of you. My thanks to Events Board member Loch, who led the hard-working events team.

Please see the pictures below, which include a traditional dance, performed by our delegates on the night.

Last week (Dec 5th) the AFFLIP AGM and board meeting marked the last formal events for our year.

Thank you for your interest and input to AFFLIP,
Yvonne Zeegers
AFFLIP Chair.



PIC·COLLAGE

Talomo District Delegation Learning Journey

What a fabulous and exhausting 10 days for the Talomo District delegation. After being picked up from the airport on Sunday 27th October by their AFFLIP hosts and after a goodnight's sleep the delegates began a whirlwind trip.

The visit was launched on Monday 28th October at the University of SA (Magill). AFFLIP Chair Dr Yvonne Zeegers secured us the use of the Samsung Smart School, which proved an excellent venue for both our welcome/induction and final reflection days. Peter Nielsen and Amy Reid provided a wider perspective about the teaching of reading and developments in South Australia. This set the scene for observations in schools over the remainder of the visit.

School visits commenced on Tuesday 29th. All five schools

- Parkside Primary School
- St Martins Catholic School
- Banksia Park Primary School
- Unley Primary School
- Prospect North Primary School

provided a warm welcome to delegates. Every school shared the journey they had been on in developing their reading programs. This provided the delegation with an understanding of the depth of planning that had been undertaken over the years. In each school delegates were able to visit several classrooms to observe teachers modelling Guided Reading lessons. They also had the opportunity to speak with these teachers. Every school was very generous in sharing resources that they had developed with the visitors. Thank you does not seem enough for the warmth of the welcome from all the schools' delegates visited

The wrap up of the visit occurred back at University of SA on Tuesday 5th November. It was an opportunity to reflect on the learning from the schools visited as well as focusing on what the Talomo schools are trying to achieve for students using GRUBB. These sessions were led by board members. The practical nature of the sessions engaged the delegates to consider what will happen next with guided reading in their schools.

It was not all work for the delegates with Friday night, Saturday and Sunday providing opportunities to be special guests at the AFFLIP Chairs Reception and visit a wildlife sanctuary.

Transport of the delegates to the schools and to other events relied on the goodwill of board members and their preparedness to organize their week to facilitate transport arrangements. We thank you for your generous support.

Warm regards

Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery

Professional Development: Literacy Coordinator



GRUBB showing results in the classroom

The recent three-year Guided Reading Using Book Boxes (GRUBB) initiative has significantly improved literacy outcomes in Talomo District A and B in the Philippines. Funded by the Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) and Magic Libraries Foundation, this project aimed to enhance reading skills among students in Grades 4–6 by providing books, training teachers in guided reading, and establishing a sustainable literacy-focused curriculum.

Initially, 15 schools implemented GRUBB in Grades 4 and 5, later expanding to Grade 6. The program provided structured reading materials and supported teachers in creating engaging, interactive reading environments. Teachers attended workshops, increasing their skills in differentiated instruction, vocabulary building, comprehension, and fluency. They noted that guided reading transformed classroom practices and encouraged collaborative learning.

Results showed a substantial decrease in students reading at the "frustration level"—from 48% to 20%—and a sharp increase in those achieving "independent reading levels," from 15% to 38%. Students also demonstrated improvement in the Filipino Department of Education "Developmental Literacy Assessment Instruments". These improvements underscore the program's effectiveness in moving students toward higher literacy competence.

The project has reached over 6,700 students and trained 320 teachers and school heads. Nearly 27,000 books have been distributed across Talomo schools, where they are being used to foster a lifelong interest in reading. Teachers now report a visible boost in students' reading confidence, motivation, and engagement, with many students expressing enthusiasm about the opportunity to explore a wider range of texts.

GRUBB's impact is expected to be long-lasting, as the resources and training provided will continue to support literacy education in the region.



How can I sponsor an AFFLIP Scholar?

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. In the 2024_25 school year we have 354 scholarship holders in years 4 to 6. This is up from 300 pupils on the scholarship program in the 2023-24 school year. Maintaining scholarships numbers into the future is an important focus on the Boards work. If you would like to learn more about supporting the scholarship program, follow the link below

Loch Mitchell
Scholarship Coordinator

Learn More about
Scholarships

You are invited: 2025 AFFLIP Dinner and Fundraiser

You're invited to our...

ANNUAL AFFLIP FUNDRAISING DINNER
FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2025
NATIONAL WINE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA
Commencing 6.30pm..

Featuring "Germein"



- Tickets \$150 per person.
- Includes 3 course meal, drinks, entertainment, dancing & more.
- Raffle, Live & Silent Auctions
 - bring your bidding arm!

Please RSVP ASAP via your AFFLIP invitee to confirm your seat!

afflip

AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION FOR FOSTERING LEARNING IN THE PHILIPPINES - www.afflip.com



For information contact event coordinator, Loch Mitchell, loch.mitchell@afflip.com





**Wishing all our friends and supporters
a very happy Christmas and a healthy
and prosperous 2025**

Interested in supporting AFFLIP's work?

We would love to hear from you.

afflip australian foundation
for fostering learning
in the philippines inc.



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

[Contact Us](#)

Yvonne Zeegers, AFFLIP Chair
0417 853 940

Check out AFFLIP's website [→](#)

This email was created with Wix. [Discover More](#)