

# **Oct 2024 Newsletter**

# latest news and updates

# From the Chair

Hello everyone,

I hope you're enjoying the blossoming spring season (and hopefully avoiding hay fever!). I have some exciting updates to share.

On October 27th, we eagerly await the arrival of eight delegates in South Australia: seven School-based Literacy Coordinators and their team leader, Talomo District Supervisor, Deony Ferolino. This visit will complete our Inservice program for the 15 Talomo schools Coordinators. The Literacy team has been diligently providing professional development on the effective use of Guided Reading using the Book Boxes scheme (GRUBB).

Our thanks go to Board members Jeannette Emery and Max Greenwood, who have led this program. We're currently conducting an ongoing evaluation and look forward to sharing the results with you in upcoming newsletters.

We're also grateful for the substantial support we've received from the Magic Libraries Foundation in Geneva. Their commitment to this literacy initiative has made a significant impact.

In early October, our Scholarship Coordinator, Loch Mitchell, and I will present information about AFFLIP and, specifically, AFFLIP's Scholarship program to ZONTA. ZONTA generously sponsors several of our female scholars, and we're excited to showcase the impact of the scholarship program.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to each of you for your ongoing interest, contributions, and support of AFFLIP's work in Talomo Districts A and B, located in Davao City, Mindanao, Philippines.

Warm regards, Yvonne Zeegers AFFLIP Board Chair

## 2025 Gala Dinner: Looking for auction items?

To fund our multiple programs in the Philippines, we rely on two funding sources. The first is via generous donations from companies, organisations, and individuals, and secondly, the funds we raise at our annual gala dinner. In recent years we have been fortunate to hold our dinners at the National Wine Centre (now a welcome corporate supporter of AFFLIP). These dinners are wonderful events, attended by more than 250 people each year, with the clear aim of having a great night out as well as raising funds for a very worthy cause. I can confirm that our next dinner will be held on 14th February 2025. (invitation at the end of this newsletter)

If you are interested in attending the dinner, please contact any member of the AFFLIP Board, or the Events Coordinator, Loch Mitchell (loch.mitchell@afflip.com).

If you are unable to attend but would like to help, you might be willing to contribute an item for the Silent or Live Auctions, held at the dinner. Both are very popular, and we have benefited in the past from the kind donations of items like books, wine, gift vouchers for dinners, winery tours, work of art, and short holidays. Items for the Silent auction are usually valued between \$150 and \$500, and any item valued at more than \$500 goes into the Live auction. If you can contribute an item(s) for our auctions, please contact the Events Coordinator, you would have our gratitude.

Warm regards Loch Mitchell Events Coordinator loch.mitchell@afflip.com

#### **Innovation Blooms: OLEP Projects Continue to Evolve**

This portfolio work is centered on the use of outdoor environments to enhance student learning within both formal and informal curricula. It involves collaboration between Australian and Filipino educators and students to create and design outdoor spaces with natural materials. This promotes Learning Through Play and the development of teaching materials for mainstream subjects that utilize outdoor settings. A key objective is to identify methods to improve the outdoor physical environment to support student learning.

The Multipurpose Outdoor Learning Domain (MOLD) outdoor furniture project has been highly successful. Installations of MOLD in schools are complete, and finances have been settled. Teachers incorporate them into their teaching programs, and students engage with them for learning through play during breaks. Parents use the MOLDs to listen to their children read.

Each school has developed an action plan for outdoor learning and has a recorded history of their Outdoor Learning Environment Program (OLEP). Efforts are underway to re-examine the conceptual scaffolding and philosophy of Outdoor Learning, emphasizing creative play, in consultation with all stakeholders as the program develops in the Talomo schools.



#### **Much Anticipated Talomo Educators visit nears**

The AFFLIP Board eagerly anticipates the arrival of seven School-based Literacy Coordinators and their team leader from Talomo District. They will be in Adelaide from October 27th until November 6th. During their stay, they'll visit five schools, spending a day at each to observe reading programs in action and engage with teachers and school leaders.

Our thanks go to Parkside Primary School, St Martins Catholic School, Banksia Park Primary School, Unley Primary School, and Prospect North Primary School for generously sharing their literacy programs and time with our visiting delegates.

Special thanks to the Board members and friends of AFFLIP who are providing accommodation and transportation. Their support makes this vital work possible. Stay connected with us on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages for updates on the visit.

Warm regards,

Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery Professional Development: Literacy Coordinator

#### **Showcasing Davao City Special School**

If you follow our Facebook or LinkedIn pages you will know that we have been highlighting the work of each of our 15 Talomo District Schools. Here's just one. Check out our socials for more. Search: Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) on Facebook or AFFLIP on LinkedIn

## 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

