

# April 2018 Newsletter

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in the philippines inc.

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## From the Chair

Dear << Test First Name >>

What a magnificent night we had at the recent AFFLIP Dinner Dance. It was a wonderful example of South Australians working to improve the lives of more than 20,000 disadvantaged children attending primary schools in Davao City, Mindanao, one of the poorest parts of the Philippines.

We could not function at the level we do without the generosity of our members and their friends who gathered together at the Adelaide Pavilion to enjoy delicious food, good wine and great company. Our auctioneers on the night were Geoff and Daniel Schell, joint Principals of Ray White Clare Valley and Ray White Rural SA. This father and son team from the Clare Valley set the scene for an excellent evening which resulted in \$17,000 being raised to support AFFLIP programs.





Our major donors on the night provided holiday accommodation packages, exceptional wines, scented soy candles, a selection of beautiful artworks, children's books personally signed by Mem Fox, luxurious beauty products, food and beverage packages, Bunnings Vouchers and even a personal breathalyser.

A heartfelt thank you to:

- *Andrew Pike and members of the Clare Valley Winemakers Inc*
- *AFFLIP Patrons the Hon Greg Crafter AO and the Hon Stephen Baker*
- *Jane and Andrew Mitchell, Mitchell Wines*
- *Dante Gloria, Turner Freeman Lawyers*
- *Peter Wilson*
- *Ali Kerr and WineDirect.com*
- *Charlie & Jenelle Tooze, Corny Point Caravan Park*
- *Tony Harris, Budget Car Rentals*
- *Board members Caroline Green, Miriam Cocking, and Lyn Wilkinson*
- *Penny Gale and the RAA*
- *Kristen Jelk, Janesce*
- *Will Morony*
- *Jenny Hurley, Hurley Hotel Group*
- *Mem Fox*
- *Damian Peterson and Matt Farmer*
- *Janice Inducil, Kandila Company*
- *The Hotel Metropolitan*

**Over the coming year we will be able to continue to:**

- keep a growing number of at-risk primary aged students in school through the provision of \$100 scholarships - currently we support 121 students;
- link South Australian Primary Schools with Talomo District schools to strengthen school partnerships between students, teachers and school communities so that students are able to collaborate on projects, practice language skills and develop lifelong friendships - currently we link 15 SA Primary Schools with 15 Talomo District Elementary Schools;
- promote the health and nutrition of students in the district through sustainable school feeding programs to address hunger issues among students and provide equipment and support for agriculture and aquaculture activities to help sustain each school's feeding program. At the commencement of each school year as many as 40% of students present at school in a malnourished state - this strategy assists schools to develop and grow sustainable garden plots that provide produce to the feeding program resulting in these students moving into the normal weight range within 12 weeks;
- enhance Talomo District teachers' knowledge and skills in teaching literacy and provide quality professional development and curriculum resources to each school; and
- assist these schools to recognise the importance of play in learning and in particular develop ways to enhance outdoor school environments in order to promote student learning. Sparse yards and tight classroom spaces are making way for pyramid ladders, log adventure areas, sand pits with boulders and wooden bridges, tunnels and overpasses. Children don't just play, their teachers are using the space for music, mathematics, language and literacy and physical skills development.

Thank you for your support.

Warmest best wishes

Susan Boucher

AFFLIP Chair

## Rotary Club of Maitland

AFFLIP would like to acknowledge and thank the Rotary Club of Maitland for their significant support over the past six years. Recently, the club celebrated 50 years of service to the community and a surprise and very welcome presentation of \$7,000 was made to Alastair Douglas AFFLIP Board Member. Since 2012 the Maitland Rotary Club has provided \$16,500 to support a range of AFFLIP Health and Nutrition

programs.

One example of the club's generosity was the support provided to Catalunan Pequeño Elementary School. Their donation was used to further enhance the aquaculture and agriculture program and included constructing and establishing a chicken coop, fishpond and plant nursery along with vermicompost and compost stations. This support from Maitland Rotary has a direct and positive impact on the school's feeding program improving the nutritional status of students who present at the school in a malnourished state.



A heartfelt thank you to President Steve Southwood and Helyn Southwood along with the many members and friends of the club who have been with AFFLIP from the early days. The \$100 scholarships you donate to keep at risk students at school, your willingness to involve family and friends so that they too become supporters and members and your presence and support of AFFLIP fundraising activities are appreciated not only by AFFLIP here in South Australia but also the 20,000 students and their families in Talomo District, Mindanao, Southern Philippines.





Board member Ali Douglas (left) receiving the cheque from Maitland Rotary Club President, Steve Southwood.

## Teacher Writing Competition

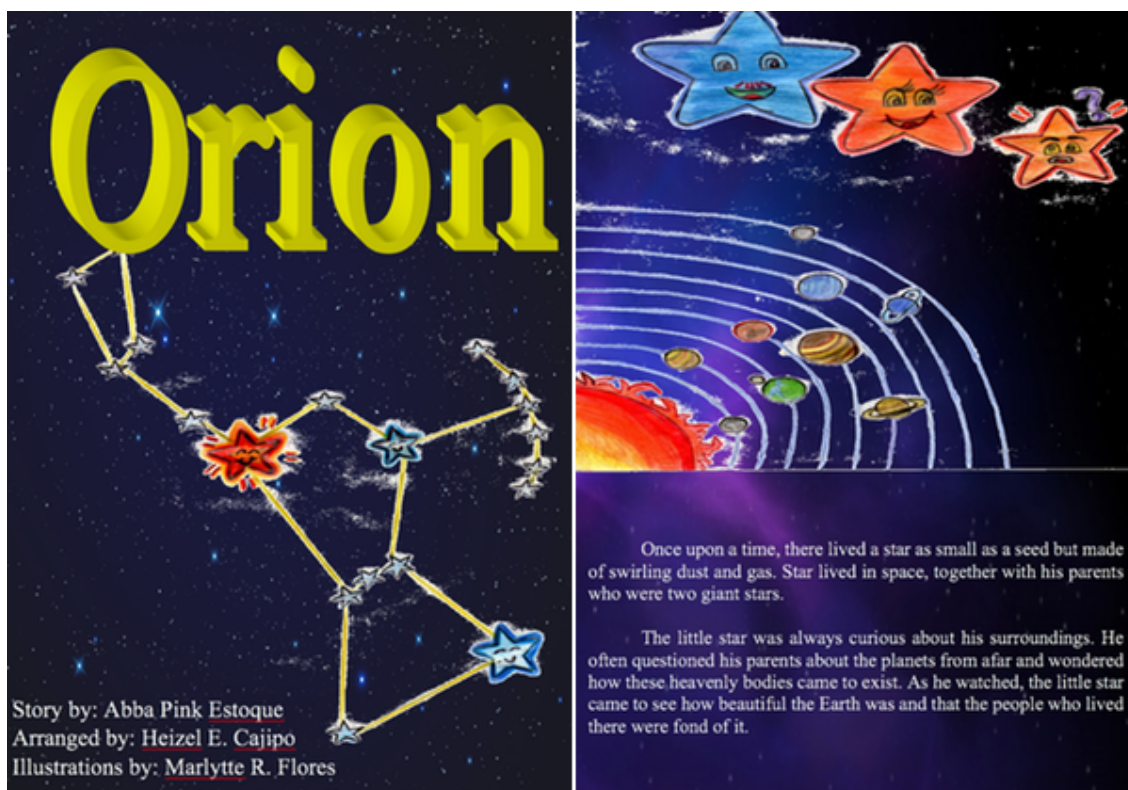
Children in elementary (primary) school in Davao City are required to learn three languages: Visayan (mother tongue for most children), Filipino, and English. There is particular emphasis on English from Grade 3 onwards. Providing reading material for the 20,000 children in Talomo district is a huge task, and providing it in three languages adds incredible complexity. AFFLIP has sent four shipments of books to Talomo, including both fiction and non-fiction together with big books donated by ERA Publications, considerably boosting the reading materials available in each of the elementary schools we support. However, ensuring that reading material is culturally appropriate, especially for beginning readers who need context and situations with which they are familiar, is an issue that AFFLIP has grappled with.

In 2015 Rosebell Narciso, the district English Coordinator, ran a very successful series of Saturday workshops for teachers in which they wrote and illustrated reading materials for beginning readers. These were of excellent quality and have been photocopied for use in all 15 schools. When the first delegation of teachers from Talomo visited Adelaide in 2016, a 'kitchen table' discussion about possible initiatives by AFFLIP resulted in the idea of a writing competition for teachers in order to produce additional reading materials that were contextually appropriate. Three monetary prizes were donated by AFFLIP supporters and, once the competition had been approved by the AFFLIP Board and the Technical Working Group in Talomo, the district Supervisor, Mrs Adeline Go, and the school principals encouraged teachers to form writing / illustrating teams. The task was to write a

story, in English, suitable for Grade 3 or 4 children: this is when English is more formally taught, becoming the language of instruction in both Mathematics and Science.

Seven schools submitted illustrated books which were judged by Lynne Badger, Angela Sullivan and Lyn Wilkinson. Each of the judges has extensive qualifications and experience in literacy. Lynne was a series editor of the 'Magic Bean in-fact' books and Angela and Lyn have been judges for the children's Book Council of Australia awards.

To promote collaboration, teachers were asked to work in teams. This also reduced the work required from each individual.



After careful consideration, three winners were selected. The overall winning team, attracting a AUD\$200 prize, was Mary Ann D. Tanduyan, Sheryl P. Petilla, and Abigail L. Lasquite of Jose Bastida Elementary School. The judges felt that their story about Dexter, a young boy whose dog Bravo goes missing, was a well-constructed narrative that children would easily identify with. One of the 'highly commended' prizes (AUD\$100) was awarded to Abba Pink L. Estoque, Heizel E. Cajipo, and Marlytte R. Flores of A. Mabini Elementary School for their beautifully illustrated story about the star Orion. This was not only an appealing story for children, but had a clear moral message about not polluting the earth. The other 'highly commended' winner was the story *The magical stones of Budi*, based on a local folk tale, written and illustrated by Jane G. Sagpang, Amereza N. Lucernas,

and Archangel P. Molina II from Baliok Elementary School. Again, this had a clear story line and moral message about bullying.

While there is still some work to do to get the stories photocopied and into the schools so all children can enjoy them, the writing competition was judged a success and will be held again in 2018.

Talomo District school teams are offered the opportunity to work with mentors in Adelaide who have interest and expertise in literacy as well as an appreciation of the fact that the teachers are writing in their third or fourth language. Mentors support their assigned writing team by responding to ideas, and making suggestions. The final task is to support the team to ensure that the spelling and grammar in the story are conventionally correct.

We are hoping that all 15 schools will enter the competition this year, so more mentors will be needed. If you are interested in helping a writing team as mentor, please contact Lyn Wilkinson at [lyn.wilkinson4@bigpond.com.au](mailto:lyn.wilkinson4@bigpond.com.au)

## Principal's Profile

In this, and subsequent newsletters, we profile a principal in one of the Talomo elementary schools. The principals are the linchpin of AFFLIP projects. They manage AFFLIP's work in Talomo district by writing submissions for money; supporting their coordinators in implementing projects; accounting for expenditure; and liaising with parents, caregivers and school communities. We hope you enjoy getting to know them.

### **Mrs. Hazel Linaza, Jose Bastida Elementary School**



Hazel has been part of the AFFLIP team since its inception, embracing its principles, values and projects energetically. Her enthusiasm is contagious and, as a principal, she 'leads from the front'. Hazel is strongly committed to improving whichever context she is working in, and has welcomed the opportunities afforded her by AFFLIP to enhance



teaching and learning in her school.

Hazel has worked in education for 28 years, 21 of them as a school principal. After seven years in the classroom, including a three year stint as District Property Custodian in San Roque District, Hazel was promoted into school management at the tender age of 28 at Tungkalan Elementary School in Piedad District. Next she was assigned to Baliok Elementary School then in 2003 she was appointed Principal 1 and assigned to San Lorenzo school, both in Talomo District.

When AFFLIP commenced, Hazel was the principal at Catalunan Pequeno. She was transferred four years ago to Jose Bastida Elementary School which has an enrolment of over 2000 scholars and is staffed by 48 teachers. As principal, Hazel provides incredible leadership at both the school and District level. She is the Chair of the AFFLIP 'Professional Development: Literacy' Committee and has an important role in reporting back to the subcommittee here in Australia, as well as troubleshooting when things go awry in Davao.

In October 2016 Hazel was in the first group of principals and co-ordinators to visit South Australia as part of the Schools Network delegation, describing it as "a chance of a lifetime". She continues ...

"Upon arriving there, I saw many things I used to see on TV only. I saw how great things can be done if there is discipline and much respect for others. It was so wonderful to see big and tall buildings and the first class lifestyle of the people of different colors. Their environment so clean and beautiful, the big roses, the tram, the vineyards, my list is endless. In all of these, I say that Philippines has to learn much from Australia. In all of the schools we visited, I can say that we are far far away, compared to them, more than fifty years I think. It was indeed a very humbling experience, an eye-opener for me and a big ray of hope - that with our little ways of working with AFFLIP - better things are coming."

Hazel has shared with us several of the benefits of that visit, which proved a rich learning experience. Firstly, she says, "I reinvented myself to manage my time better for work." Hazel also took back to her school many ideas for collecting and displaying data so that she, school coordinators and classroom teachers could see student achievement and improvement at a glance. This enables staff to intervene quickly and efficiently when necessary. One of these areas was collecting information about student attendance, which is now collected at school level daily rather than monthly. Before the Australian visit, school attendance was 78%. Following meetings with stake holders to emphasise the importance of children attending every day, and a graphic display on a chart in the staff room, school attendance has improved to 87% in the period June 2017 – January 2018.



Hazel has also created a staff room and since the school now has two shifts this enables teachers to relax after class, prepare for their lessons, eat their lunch or prepare a hot drink, share ideas, have meetings and so on.

Several AFFLIP initiatives have supported improvement in students' reading proficiency, including the provision of laminating machines, big books and easels, teacher notes, and classroom books for reading – both fiction and non-fiction. Hazel has supported all these innovations and is very proud of the difference they are making for students. Her school received excellent remarks about the use of laminated materials during the recent District monitoring of Mother Tongue teaching and kindergarten education. Data collected across the school between July 2017 and January 2018 (within their school year) reveals that:

- For Grade 1 Mother Tongue (Visayan), the number of non-readers has decreased by 92%
- For Grades 2 & 3 English and Filipino, the number of non-readers has decreased by 80%
- For Grades 4 to 6 English and Filipino, the number of frustration readers (those having significant difficulty at the expected reading level) has decreased by 70%

These are amazing results and clearly indicate the quality of Hazel's leadership and the commitment of her staff.

Using AFFLIP funds, garden beds have been concreted, and this prevents storm damage and washaways. Cared for by the Grade 5 teachers and pupils, these garden beds have been an additional source of vegetables for the feeding program which has resulted in a decrease of 63% of wasted and severely wasted students. It has also improved the attendance of this cohort of students to 98.9%. Additionally, the vegetable gardens are providing an important learning venue for students in different subject areas, including home and livelihood education, mathematics, the Arts, and Science.

Hazel has encouraged curriculum connection with West Lakes Shore Primary; allocated tools for gardening and first aid supplies for the clinic; and budgeted for laminating film for the machines which AFFLIP has supplied.

One of the initiatives Hazel suggested was that AFFLIP fund 50 of the poorest children in each school to belong to the Scouts. Scouting is school-based, rather than community based, in the Philippines and membership enables children whose families cannot afford the very moderate fees to participate in camping and other activities that offer opportunities for self-development, leadership, and skill

development.

Through Hazel's connections, AFFLIP delegates from Australia have been able to visit the Mayor's Office on a number of occasions to speak about achievements in the Talomo schools, funded and supported by AFFLIP. We have also had access to Davao City Councilor Pilar Braga, who is the Chair of the education, science and technology committee and is very supportive of AFFLIP's work in Talomo.

Education research shows that most school variables, considered separately, have at most small effects on learning. The real payoff comes when individual variables combine to reach critical mass. Creating the conditions under which that can occur is the job of the principal.\*

With her experience, insight, initiative and leadership, Mrs Hazel Linaza is working toward the 'critical mass' that builds capacity at Jose Bastida Elementary School. This in turn improves the quality of teaching and hence – most importantly - outcomes for students. We salute Hazel's achievements.

\* [Wallace Foundation. \(2011\). \*The school principal as leader: Guiding schools to better teaching and learning.\*](#)

## Remembering Ronald Mangmang



Ronald Mangmang, Principal at A. Bonifacio Elementary Primary School recently suffered a heart attack and died. He is remembered by his colleagues and friends here in South Australia for his strong leadership, passion and commitment to education and his influence in building a strong and sustainable education partnership, as well as his work on the ground-breaking Outdoor Learning Education Project.

At our recent fundraising dinner Professor Alan Reid was asked to reflect on Ronald's contribution to AFFLIP.

*"Ronald was one of the finest educators with whom I have ever worked. All Board members deeply respected his educational expertise, and his passion for Filipino education. We also loved his warmth, care and respect towards others, as well as his wicked sense of humour.*

*Ronald's death leaves a huge hole in AFFLIP's program, but we know his legacy will remain. As AFFLIP expands its work and reach, Ronald's contribution will continue to be significant. He symbolised the power of working across national boundaries to advance the education and the lives of children and young people - and for that reason alone, we won't forget him."*

You can read Alan's tribute to Ronald in full at the [AFFLIP website](#).

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