



October 2023 Newsletter

latest news and updates

The Board and its members have been very busy since our last newsletter in June. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of a delegation of teachers and leaders from Talomo District later this month. It is very exciting to have educators visiting again after a break of three years due to the Covid pandemic. Many thanks to Max Greenwood and Jeanette Emery and team for their tireless preparations.

Talomo District Educators' Delegation to Adelaide

Ten leaders and reading educators from Talomo District will be visiting Adelaide later this month to further explore the work that has been started by the Guided Reading Using Book Boxes, (GRUBB) project. AFFLIP's partnership with Magic Libraries Foundation (Geneva) has enabled what was a small-scale reading project to expand into all fifteen schools in the Talomo District. We look forward to sharing the professional learning experiences of the delegation in our next newsletter and via Facebook and LinkedIn. Stay tuned.

GRUBB Kicks-Off

The second stage of AFFLIP/ Magic Libraries Guided Reading Using Book Boxes (GRUBB) program commenced with enthusiasm in September 2023 at the start of a new school year.

Students from Year 4 and Year 5 from fifteen Talomo District Schools are involved in the project along with their teachers and Reading Coordinators. Year 5 students in some schools are familiar with GRUBB through being involved the previous year whereas Guided Reading will be new to all Year 4 students.

The program aims to improve students reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary and reduce the number of students who are reading at frustration level. Students reading ages will be tested at the start, middle and end of the school year and assessed on progress as a result of Guided Reading Instruction. An attitudinal reading survey will collect information about student dispositions towards reading. All data sets will contribute to the program's evaluation and published in a final review report to be lodged in September 2024. AFFLIP's Research and Evaluation Team are currently working with Filipino counterparts and considering a range of methods to examine the information collected. Further work on using the data effectively will be discussed during the visit of literacy leaders from the Talomo District Schools to Adelaide in October 2023.

One of the most important acquisitions during the project has been the supply of colourful, interesting, motivating texts for students to use during Guided Reading lessons. A wide variety of reading texts have been sourced from several leading book sellers and publishers in the Philippines in a variety of genres. Special efforts were made to ensure a significant number of the books purchased were bi-lingual and culturally relevant. Schools and students have been very appreciative of the books supplied to each site.

A wide variety of exciting literacy experiences will be provided to Talomo District leaders during their visit to Adelaide in October 2023. We are very grateful to the metropolitan schools who have assisted us with this visit. Talomo teachers are looking forward to being welcomed into Adelaide classrooms, observing lessons and noting many practical literacy teaching strategies that can be adopted by the Talomo District schools.

During our visit to Talomo schools in April 2023 the concept of instructional leadership and peer teacher demonstrations of Guided Reading were introduced during training and development. Both are important strategies that support mentoring and educational change.

Comments from participants included:

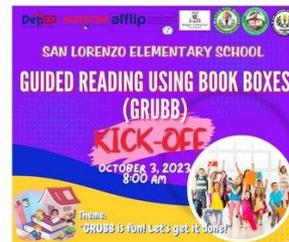
I discovered a lot of new strategies during the training and am looking forward to using them in GRUBB lessons.

The demo teacher gave a clear, step by step lesson on how to do GRUBB that was easy to understand.

The sessions gave me ideas and knowledge that I can use in my Guided Reading lessons. Thank you for sharing your expertise.

For me, this is the best way to help our learners improve their individual reading in reading.

Jeanette Emery and Max Greenwood
PD Literacy Coordinators



**San Lorenzo ES
GRUBB KICK-OFF**



Pictures from Catalunan Grande ES and San Lorenzo ES GRUBB Kick-Off courtesy Cheryl B. Tagra

Scholarships: making a difference for children!

Scholarships are an important part of the work that AFFLIP does to support some of the most disadvantaged students in Talomo District to stay in school. When we started 10 years ago, AFFLIP sponsored 10 scholars, now we have 300 pupils on the scholarship program for the school year 2022-24.

We are thrilled to report that this year's scholars have received the materials that they will need to have a successful year at school and the picture below shows firsthand the joy this support brings.



DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO AFFLIP SCHOLARS 09-07-23



There have now been 528 children who have benefited from a three-year scholarship since the program started in 2013. Every one of them has a story to tell. Here are just a couple of their stories:

From a grade six pupil at Leon A. Garcia Sr. Elementary school:

"To become an AFFLIP scholar is a blessing to me. I am excited to go to school every day. I am more enthusiastic and eager to learn more. My parents are also happy when I got the scholarship and supported me in all my endeavors in life. I am very thankful to the

generosity given to me by the AFFLIP. Thank you AFFLIP for your kindness. I will promise that I will do my best in my studies so that you will be proud of me."

From a past pupil of Talomo Central Elementary School:

Background - She is the daughter of a single parent who works as a domestic helper. They live in a small room, previously used as bodega or storage room. They live there because the family can't afford to rent a house on their monthly income of only P2,000.00 pesos. The scholar's mother could not buy all the school supplies and school uniforms needed by her daughter. She is thankful and grateful to AFFLIP and to her daughter's sponsor for supporting her education for three years. The AFFLIP scholar herself was overwhelmed with excitement because for the first time in her life, she wore expensive shoes, blouses and branded socks and received complete sets of school supplies. The scholarship supported her in so many ways. She gained self-confidence and was excited and motivated to go to school every day. The tablet supplied by AFFLIP during the pandemic supported her to take part in online classes. The scholar has now moved into the seventh grade and is grateful to the AFFLIP and her sponsor for changing her life.

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. The grade 6 scholars move on to high school each July and a new group join the program in grade 4 each school year so 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 Scholarships](#)

Loch Mitchell
Scholarship Coordinator

360 laptops soon on their way to the Talomo Schools!

In what will be a threshold moment for the Digital Learning Project, final agreements are now being drafted between AFFLIP and Australian not-for-profit Lite-Haus International, to have 360 laptop computers 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, and Nicola and Paul Godwin, have resulted in a current project funding commitment of \$131,000 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, 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 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 forthcoming laptop supply partnership is eagerly anticipated by all parties engaged with the project.

Tim Ryan,
Digital Partnerships Director



Digital Learning Program's Talomo-based Technical Working Group

from left, Mr Dexter Lamparas, Ma'am Vi-Cherry Ledesma, Ma'am Jienelle Catubay (Lite-Haus International) and Mr Felix Suiicopeople

Congratulations on a fine achievement!

Congratulations to June Patalinghug who has been judged as the top elementary teacher in the Philippines in Metrobank 2023 awards for outstanding Filipinos.

June has been involved in all AFFLIP programs in some respect since 2012 and initially played an important role in the establishment of the Schools Learning Network at Baliok Elementary School.

His main more recent contribution has come in the Research Evaluation and Strategic Innovation program (RESI) program. He coordinates and leads this flagship program and the 15 school coordinators in their research and evaluation activities. He has been actively involved in a variety of research activities at local, national, and international levels. He has presented papers of great merit, one of which won first place in a regional competition which focused on the AFFLIP Outdoor Learning flagship program. His involvement in the RESI program since its inception two years ago has been outstanding.

He works closely with our Board Directors in the implementation of the program and is having a great impact on his peers in the Talomo Districts and is now based at Catalunan Grande Elementary School in Talomo.



Learners Camp 2023 Update

Thank you to Marilyn Marcelo, District Supervisor Talomo District for this report.

“The Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) is now on its second year of sponsoring a live in Learners' Camp which aims to capacitate AFFLIP Scholars with the Phil Sci like tests in English, Science, Mathematics, verbal ability and Abstract Reasoning, preparing them to qualify for Philippine Science High School or Department of Science and Technology Scholarship.

This year's camp was hosted by Talomo CES and A. Bonifacio ES from September 29 to October 1 and participated by 180 campers from Grades 4, 5 and 6 from the 15 schools of Talomo A and B Districts. Aside from academic subjects the campers were also taught with values and leadership skills. This activity is fully funded by AFFLIP where learners were provided with complete meals for 3 days.

Among the resource speakers were the best and the brightest teachers from the specialist maths and science high schools, and from Talomo A and Talomo B. This Learners' Camp was fully supervised by the Focal Person [Vi-Cherry Ultiano Ledesma](#) with the members of the technical working group, scholarship coordinators and School Heads.

Two campers from the first batch are now scholars of Philippine Science High School.

They are the first two pupils from Talomo to ever qualify for this school. Looking forward for more scholars for the next school year.”

2024 AFFLIP Dinner and Fundraiser

You're invited to our....

ANNUAL AFFLIP FUNDRAISING DINNER
FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY 2024
NATIONAL WINE CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA

Featuring The Germein Sisters



Tickets \$140 per person.
Includes 3 course meal, drinks,
entertainment & more.

Live & Silent Auctions on the night
(bring your bidding arm!)

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

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AFFLIP WINE CLUB COMING SOON

Later this month the first offerings of our wine club will be made available. Why a wine club you ask? Our goals are threefold:

1. To promote the enjoyment of our state's outstanding export products within our membership across the whole year
2. To provide a source of extra sales revenue for our loyal and generous wine company sponsors
3. To enhance the opportunity for further donated funds from our wine sponsors for the benefit of AFFLIP's charitable endeavors.

The first of these offers will be advertised in late October 2023, with plans in place for three or four offers through 2024 and beyond.

What do you need to do? We will publish to our members no obligation discounted limited purchasing offers exclusively arranged through our five wine company sponsors Penfolds, Savitas, Three Rings, Patritti and Pikes.

AFFLIP members are encouraged to circulate the emailed offers to family and friends and to make your own purchases within the time period stated for each offer. Keep your eye out for our first offer.



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

Alastair Douglas AFFLIP Chair
0407 979 251

Check out AFFLIP's website [→](#)

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