

March 2025 Newsletter

latest news and updates

Message from our Chair

Dear AFFLIP Supporters,
What an incredible and humbling 10-day journey Liz, Ali, and I recently experienced as we visited each of our 15 AFFLIP-sponsored schools in the Talomo East and Talomo West districts of Davao City.

Our mission was to assess the progress of these schools in meeting AFFLIP's 2024-2025 goals across key initiatives, including Health and Nutrition, the Digital Learning Program, the Guided Reading Scheme (GRUBB), the Scholarship Program, and the SA-Talomo Schools Learning Network.

Throughout our visit, we were inspired by the dedication of students, teachers, and community members. Here are three standout moments:

Connecting with 70 AFFLIP Scholarship Alumni

On a warm Saturday morning, we met a remarkable group of AFFLIP Scholarship Alumni—articulate, driven, and thriving. Their stories underscored the life-changing impact of our scholarship program. As we moved among them, we heard from students just beginning high school, others preparing to graduate, and others embarking on university study



A Growing Success: The Hydroponic Garden

At Davao City Special School, we were in awe of teacher Robert, who has taken the lead in transforming the school's hydroponic vegetable garden. His dedication, along with the support of parents who volunteer their time, is ensuring a sustainable food source for the school's feeding program—an inspiring example of community-driven impact.

Empowering Young Learners Through Technology

We witnessed shy primary students, eagerly using AFFLIP-donated laptops. Through skills-based programs, they are developing essential abilities in logical thinking, prediction, and place value—building confidence and a brighter academic future.



These achievements, and so many more, are only possible because of you—our valued AFFLIP Members, Sponsors, and Donors. Your generosity fuels real change in the lives of these students and their communities.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are making a lasting difference!

Kind regards

Yvonne

Board visits Talomo District

Board members Dr. Yvonne Zeegers, Ali Douglas, and Liz Wilson recently visited all 15 schools in the Talomo East and West Districts during their trip to Davao City from Wednesday, February 26, to Thursday, March 6, 2025.

Their packed itinerary included meetings with the Technical Working Groups (TWG) and program coordinators of AFFLIP's flagship initiatives. These discussions focused on celebrating 2024-25 achievements and setting priorities for the 2025-26 school year.

During school visits, board members had the privilege of meeting current scholarship recipients and their families. Students were proudly presented with certificates in recognition of their scholarships. The warmth of the school communities and the children's heartfelt performances made each visit truly special.

As Yvonne mentioned in her reflections, there were countless memorable moments—the pictures below capture just a glimpse of the joy and inspiration we experienced.



Thank you for the warm welcome at every site we visited. Here the students at Baliok ES are in full swing.



Everywhere we went it was gratifying to see the resources being created to provide students with the best opportunity to learn.



In every school we visited we had an opportunity to meet the scholars and hear firsthand the difference a scholarship makes.

Thank you, Max Greenwood

Max Greenwood's work with AFFLIP has left an indelible legacy. As a key figure in the Literacy Portfolio, Max, alongside Lyn Wilkinson, shaped the Talomo District Schools' literacy framework, including the enduring "Nine Essential Elements of Reading" and the innovative "Far-Near Plan." These initiatives remain fundamental to literacy efforts today.

One of Max's most notable achievements was co-authoring the successful Magic Libraries Foundation grant. This grant facilitated the implementation of the Guided Reading project across the Talomo District, despite the formidable challenges posed by the COVID pandemic in the Philippines. Max's unwavering dedication and problem-solving abilities ensured the project's success.

Max's connection with Filipino teachers and students highlighted his exceptional qualities as an educator. His visits to schools were marked by genuine enthusiasm, inspiring teachers and igniting students' learning.

As Literacy Portfolio Chair, Max's humble yet diligent leadership was evident in every meeting, submission, budget, and workshop he oversaw. His quiet dedication and commitment were deeply valued, leaving a lasting impact on AFFLIP's literacy initiatives.

We extend our gratitude to Max for his years of service and wish him all the very best.



[Read acknowledgments from Ali and Jeanette](#)

AFFLIP Fundraising Dinner: A Night to Remember

The AFFLIP Fundraising Dinner, held on 14th February at the National Wine Centre, was a night of celebration, generosity, and community spirit. Over 230 guests gathered to enjoy an evening of exceptional food, wine, and entertainment. Highlights included music by South Australian group Germein and a traditional Filipino dance presentation.

The event raised an impressive \$46,000 through a Silent Auction, Raffle, and Live Auction. These funds will support AFFLIP's programs throughout the coming year, making a meaningful difference in many lives.

This year marked a new milestone with the introduction of Gerard McCabe Jewellers as the Principal Dinner Sponsor. Their generously donated auction and raffle prizes, alongside contributions from our loyal supporters and sponsors, created an atmosphere of excitement and spirited bidding.

Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed, the evening was a resounding success—one that will be remembered fondly by all who attended.

Loch Mitchell
Events Coordinator

Recognizing our generous supporters and sponsors

We extend our gratitude to Finstro for your unwavering commitment to AFFLIP and the communities we serve. Your generous support over the years has had a profound impact on the education, health, and well-being of countless students. Thanks to Finstro's contributions, we have been able to:

- ✔ Provide scholarships for 155 children, giving them access to education and brighter futures (currently supporting 90 students).
- ✔ Enhance school nutrition and health by supplying gardening tools for food gardens, first aid kits, and health essentials.
- ✔ Improve dental health through the "Teeth and Gums" Project, ensuring students receive vital oral care.
- ✔ Strengthen IT infrastructure by equipping Talomo schools with routers, improving digital access for students and teachers.

FINSTRO



- ✔ Create engaging outdoor learning spaces with 15 infrastructure projects, including play-based learning areas and outdoor furniture for all 15 schools.

Finstro's dedication to education and community development is truly making a difference. On behalf of AFFLIP and the students whose lives you have changed—thank you!

[Find out more about Finstro here](#)



Mark and Lee McBriarty have been unwavering champions of AFFLIP since Mark's tenure as the Philippines Consul to SA in 2012. Through the **McBriarty Family Foundation**, they have provided life-changing support to hundreds of scholars, helping to shape brighter futures.

Their commitment extends beyond financial contributions. They have visited Talomo schools on three occasions, witnessing firsthand the impact of their generosity. Their dedication to AFFLIP has also been evident in their tireless fundraising efforts—they have hosted tables at our annual fundraisers, played a pivotal role in organizing the Consul's Ball at Adelaide Oval in 2016 (raising vital funds for AFFLIP), and have been passionate advocates for our mission.

We extend our gratitude to Mark and Lee for their continued generosity and belief in the power of education. Their support is truly transforming lives!

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 of the Boards work. If you would like to learn more about supporting the scholarship program, follow the links below

Loch Mitchell
Scholarship Coordinator

Alumni shares the impact of her scholarship

[Learn More about Scholarships](#)

Interested in supporting AFFLIP's work?

We would love to hear from you. If you'd like to checkout our achievements in the last year, connect to our most recent annual report.

[2023-24 Annual Report](#)



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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