



# June 2025 Newsletter

## latest news and updates

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### Message from our Chair

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A warm hello to our AFFLIP readers and followers,

Well, we have passed the winter solstice, so bring on the longer and warmer days!

#### **AFFLIP Events**

One of the two major events that AFFLIP holds is the Chairs' Reception. The other is the Annual Fund Raising Dinner, which is at the National Wine Centre on February 20th, 2026.

**AFFLIP's Chair's Reception** is a unique gathering where AFFLIP's Board, Patrons, and both current and prospective corporate partners celebrate the organisation's achievements and discuss upcoming plans.

This event honours the ongoing support of our corporate partners and of our longstanding individual sponsors.

The event provides an opportunity for attendees to engage in conversations, to share stories, and to engender an atmosphere that fosters new connections and collaborations.

The evening's program typically features a keynote address, moments of recognition for outstanding contributions, and previews of upcoming initiatives that promise to further shape the future of AFFLIP.

Whether reconnecting with familiar faces or introducing fresh ideas, the Chair's Reception stands as a testament to the power of a community united in purpose and vision.

In 2025 the Chair's Reception will be held on a Thursday 13th November.

With regards, Yvonne  
AFFLIP Chair

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**From Elementary Scholarships to University Dreams:  
The Lasting Impact of AFFLIP Sponsorships**

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Since 2013, the Australian Foundation for Fostering Learning in the Philippines (AFFLIP) has been making a profound difference in the lives of young students in Davao City. Through our scholarship program, 806 children have received financial support to stay in school, covering essential expenses like tuition, books, uniforms, and extracurricular activities.

But what happens after elementary school? Does a small scholarship in Grades 4 to 6 really make a long-term difference?

The answer is a resounding **yes**—and we have the inspiring stories to prove it.

#### **Alumni Spotlight: From Scholarship Recipients to University Students**

At AFFLIP, we are thrilled to introduce some of our incredible alumni who once received an AFFLIP scholarship and are now pursuing higher education—a milestone that once seemed out of reach for many of them.

Take **Mel Joy A Lumalno**, for example. As a young student, financial hardship meant school was never a certainty. But with an AFFLIP scholarship, they had the support they needed to continue their education. Today, they are enrolled in the University of the Philippines, studying a Bachelor of Sports Science, and working toward a brighter future.

"AFFLIP didn't just help me stay in school—it gave me hope," says **Mel Joy A Lumalno**. "Without this support, I wouldn't be where I am today."

And **Mel Joy A Lumalno** is not alone. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, nearly all of our scholars have successfully transitioned from elementary to high school, and many are now taking their first steps in **university studies**.

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### **The Power of Sponsorship: A Life-Changing Investment**

An AFFLIP scholarship costs just **\$100 per year**—but its impact lasts a lifetime.

**Education breaks the cycle of poverty, opens doors to better opportunities, and gives children the confidence to dream bigger.**

Through our new AFFLIP Alumni Database, we are now tracking the progress of our scholars beyond elementary school, ensuring that we continue to support and celebrate their success. This initiative not only strengthens our connection with alumni but also allows sponsors to see the real, tangible impact of their generosity.

### **Join Us in Changing Lives**

Right now, **354 children** are benefiting from an AFFLIP scholarship. But many more are still in need. By becoming a sponsor, you can help ensure that these students stay in school, complete their education, and one day, achieve their dreams—just like our alumni scholars.

💙 Join us in making a difference. ✅ Sponsor a child today: Link below

Speak to Sponsorship Coordinator: [loch.mitchell@afflip.com](mailto:loch.mitchell@afflip.com)

📢 Share this story and spread the word about AFFLIP's life-changing impact!

Together, we are building brighter futures—one scholarship at a time. Thank you for your continued support!

#AFFLIP #EducationForAll #ScholarshipsChangeLives #SupportAChildsDream

Sponsor a child here

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## **Growing Healthy Minds and Bodies: Health and Nutrition Highlights**

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Over the past year, AFFLIP's Health and Nutrition Portfolio, led by Board members Pat Maloney and Ali Douglas, have worked with leaders and teachers across Talomo District schools to significantly strengthened student wellbeing. With health and nutrition at the heart of learning, the program has supported everything from first aid kits and dental care to food production and environmental sustainability.

Eight mushroom propagation sheds are now thriving in school grounds, with more planned through new funding applications. Hydroponics and aquaponics systems have been expanded—some producing income that supports school feeding programs and infrastructure. Aquaculture ponds, container gardens, and seedling nurseries now feature in many schools, often maintained by engaged parents and community volunteers.

AFFLIP's "Teeth and Gums" project provided dental care to 270 scholars, covering all costs and treating urgent needs. Meanwhile, schools have embraced sustainable practices, choosing flood-resistant garden sites and adapting to reduced land availability due to building works.

With strong support from the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries, schools now grow more food, label plants with nutritional information, and use gardens as dynamic learning spaces. The Health and Nutrition TWG has taken on greater leadership, driving transparency, innovation, and partnerships.

Thanks to these efforts, AFFLIP is not only supporting schools to feed students but also cultivating healthy habits, skills, and futures.



## Recognizing our generous supporters and sponsors

It was 1st May 1915, when Alfred E Haigh opened the doors of the very first Haigh's Chocolates store. Since then, it has been a quintessential South Australian family business, an icon known for its quality chocolates made using artisan skills.

The Haigh family have supported AFFLIP's work in many ways over many years. From donations to our silent auction and raffles at our annual dinner to an ongoing commitment to our scholarship program. For the past 4 years they have provided funding for up to 30 scholars, supporting them to complete their elementary schooling. We thank them for their ongoing support, which continues to profoundly impact the lives of our scholars and their educational journeys.

**HAIGH'S**  
CHOCOLATES



[Go to Haigh's Chocolates](#)



SMEC has its origins in the iconic Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme. From this beginning over 70 years ago SMEC has grown into a professional services firm recognised around the world for providing high-quality consultancy services on major infrastructure projects

In 2001, out of their commitment to the communities they work with, the SMEC Foundation was created with a goal to support community development and sustainable poverty reduction through small-scale grant support to development projects, communities and charities around the world.



Since 2016, the SMEC Foundation has been a valued partner of AFFLIP, providing over \$52,000 in grant funding across health, nutrition, outdoor learning, and digital education. SMEC's support has enabled school gardens, aquaponics systems, mushroom sheds, and outdoor learning spaces in Talomo District schools, directly enhancing student health, engagement, and learning. Most recently, SMEC's 2024 grant funded 47 refurbished laptops for the Digital Learning Program. AFFLIP is deeply grateful for SMEC's long-standing commitment to improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged children in the Philippines.

[Read about SMEC Foundation latest work with AFFLIP](#)

## Interested in supporting AFFLIP's work?

We would love to hear from you. If you'd like to check out 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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