



AFFLIP Newsletter 2 – January, 2013



A very happy new year to AFFLIP members and friends. This is the second AFFLIP Newsletter and it describes our recent activities.

The AFFLIP Launch

All members should have received an approach from a Board member and letter from AFFLIP Chairperson Alan Reid inviting you to the official launch of AFFLIP **on February 8th, 2013, 6.30pm – 10.30pm at the Pavilion (corner of South Terrace and Peacock Rd)**. The evening will take the form of a cocktail party, and as well as drinks and canapés there will be live music from the Band 'Smoke and Mirrors', a silent auction, Filipino dancers and the Launch itself. Tickets are \$90/head all inclusive. Tickets are selling well, but there are still some tickets available and it would be great if you are going to attend if you could invite some other friends to come with you. Please contact any Board member if you require more tickets. Apart from having a fun evening, your friends will be supporting a very worthy cause. Our thanks to those members who have already purchased tickets and also assisted with the provision of silent auction items. Over the last few months, the Launch event committee, led by Caroline Green and University of South Australia student Nhi Pham has been working hard to make the event a success.

Davao visit

Ali Douglas was working in Philippines in September and spent 11 days in Davao on AFFLIP business, following a World Bank assignment.

The visit was most productive and the program was packed full of activities and included the following:

- Individual meetings with the DepEd Region XI Regional Director Susan Estigoy, Congressman for the First District Hon. Karlo Nograles, representatives of the Davao City Mayor's Office, Secretary of the Davao West Rotary Club, and the Dean of Education at the University of the South Eastern Philippines (USEP) Bonifacio Gabales.
- Meetings with members of the Davao-based Technical Working Group including Marilyn Marcelo the Principal of Talomo Elementary School, Joe De Lara (Talomo District Supervisor) Melanie Estacio (our new Division point person) and Linda Flores (retired Division Supervisor).
- Special focus meeting on food gardens with the District Coordinating team and the 15 coordinators from the schools which included an extensive visit to lead school A Bonifacio Elementary School.
- Workshops with the 15 Principals of Talomo District to review progress, discuss a wide range of questions put forward by Board members related to their port folios, decide the next steps and the associated responsibilities.
- Meetings with James Lee the owner of Citi hardware and Lee Yuy the owner of Double Diamond hardware and the purchase of gardening implements.
- Visits were made to all 15 schools with a particular focus on the establishment of food gardens, the storage and utilisation of learning resources sent in our first shipment, school feeding

programs, literacy and reading initiatives, health issues and solutions, ITC facilities and connectivity, and teacher/leader professional development.

- Presentations on Instructional Leadership for the Regional Education Congress and another session specifically requested by the Talomo principals.

The planning and organisation by our colleagues in Davao was outstanding for which we thank them most sincerely. Their level of enthusiasm and commitment to and for our partnership is quite exceptional. Their ability to problem-solve and work so cohesively as a District team is reflected in the quality of the relationships established within the group and the creativity of the initiatives which they are implementing in support of all 15 schools.

Administration – Coordinator Ali Douglas

The Board met six times in 2012 and currently is supported by subcommittees for our flagship programs (Curriculum Resources, Teacher Professional Development, Health and Nutrition and Schools Network) and supporting functions (fund-raising, finance and administration) each of which is led by a Board member. The Davao-based AFFLIP Technical Working Group meets at a District level with all Principals involved supported by Division personnel and retired educators. It acts as the operational and advisory arm to the Board.

The Board is currently considering a proposal from the TWG to establish a fifth flagship program involving the provision of scholarships for students graduating from Grade 6 in Elementary School to Grade 7 in High School. The scholarships would support students from poor families who were capable academically but who may be at risk of dropping out. The scholarships will cover the cost of school uniforms, shoes and books at the start of the child's secondary education.

Our website is now operational thanks to the efforts of Board member Roger Saunders at www.afflip.com. We also have a Facebook page at AFFLIP.

Max Greenwood, Sue Walter, and Steve and Helyn Southwood are members of the administration sub-committee and have joined Board members in promoting ticket sales for the launch.

Financial – Coordinator John Younger

The amendments to our constitution were ratified at the extraordinary general meeting held on September 6, 2012. We would like to thank Greg Par of Scales and Partners for his legal advice in connection to our Constitution.

As reported previously we have now completed the requirements associated with becoming a not-for-profit foundation including incorporation, ABN/TFN registration. We have opened a bank account at the Macquarie Bank.

Membership of AFFLIP continues to blossom with our numbers now over 60. We know of a couple of people who intend giving AFFLIP membership as Xmas and Birthday presents particularly to younger people to encourage the promotion of philanthropy.

The board would appreciate any approaches our members can make to encourage friends, colleagues and family to join AFFLIP.

Fundraising – Coordinator Alan Reid

AFFLIP is raising funds for its programs and activities in a range of ways. These include membership fees, donations, sponsorships, grants, pledges, and fund raising events. To date we have engaged in the following activities:

(1) *Social events:* A very successful fund raising BBQ was held at Board member Lyn Wilkinson's home in Meadows. The beautiful garden setting was a great place for members and friends to interact.

(2) *Sponsors:* We are approaching prospective corporate sponsors and individuals and would appreciate any suggestions and assistance from members about possible sponsors.

(3) *Community Groups*: We have been busy speaking at city and country service clubs with some pleasing financial and in-kind responses.

(4) *Individuals*: Many individuals and groups have made generous donations when joining the foundation as members, for which we thank them sincerely.

(5) *Large Grants*: The fundraising sub-committee is making application for a major research grant; and is also applying for funding from two large NGOs and agencies.

(6) *Events*: After the major Launch on February 8, the Fundraising group will plan other fundraising events for 2013. Members will be advised about these through the Newsletter.

Curriculum resources – Coordinator Lyn Wilkinson

As already reported, we landed our first shipment of learning resources in Davao in June. The second shipment arrived in Davao a little earlier than expected on January 7th and contains four pallets of seventy five cartons of books, stationery and teaching resources. The shipment includes reading books, reference material, dictionaries, atlases, encyclopaedias math resources, stationery and more khaki shirts kindly donated by Mike and Matt Dickeson. The resources were selected, packed and shipped once again through our partnership with South Pacific School Aid. We are indebted to Peter Kirk and the team at SPSA, Andrew Thiele who notarised the deed of donation for the shipment and the Adelaide Rotary Club which assisted with the provision of some seed funding. In the future we also hope to be able to source laboratory equipment suitable for primary aged children and levelled reading materials. If you can assist in either of these two areas please contact Lyn.

One of the exciting aspects of the second shipment is the provision by Judy Will of a copy of her teachers' guide for all 400 plus teachers in Talomo. The guide focuses on thinking and learning through pictures. Judy also sells high quality picture packs and activities on 13 topics through her company "Picture Magic". Once again we thank Judy for this very generous gesture.

It is pleasing to note the commitment of financial assistance from Congressman Hon. Karlo Nograles and the Davao City Mayor Ms Sara Duterte for the wharf clearance of the second shipment. The Principals of Talomo have been particularly active in organising wharf and customs clearance and the distribution of the resources.

Members may be interested to know that the cost of each shipment including wharf clearance charges is in the vicinity of \$2000. We are hoping to send two shipments each year.



Health and Nutrition – Coordinator Jock McFarlane

The priority health needs of the children of the Talomo schools have been established and include the need to reduce undernourished children through school based feeding programs, eye and ear check-ups, tooth extractions and lung check-ups and even treatment. DepEd already has some data regarding health issues and the obvious question to be answered is how can AFFLIP help in the future? Some of the possible initiatives which have been requested include visits of health experts to work with local professionals and organisations and also the provision of eyeglasses for those children with identified sight issues. In order for such programs to be effective coordination with local officials is critical for a greater chance of sustainability.

All schools have now established food gardens which are supplementing their school feeding programs. The type of garden has been dependent upon the amount of land available. So those with

limited room have cans/hanging vegetable gardens and those with larger areas have quite extensive plot gardens.

The 15 schools have all participated in a competition which was run in two parts - one for plot gardens and the other container gardens. Members of the Rotary Club of West Davao were invited to inspect the gardens and continue their support for the Talomo District.

The District has established a coordination team for food gardens and is composed of Asuncion Infiesto, (District Special Project Coordinating Principal and Principal of A. Bonifacio ES), Romeo Sollano, (School OMG-Special Project Coordinator, District EPP livelihood Coordinator) and Glen Pardillo, (District Special Project Coordinating Principal).

Each school has a designated EPP (livelihood) coordinator and the group work with the district team above. East West seeds through Kim Enott will also assist the group through its support to ABES. There is a currently a proposal with East West Seeds for another Talomo school Mabini ES to also be a recipient of the Oh My Gulay scheme.

AFFLIP has provided all schools with gardening tools appropriate to their gardening program including wheel barrows, rakes, spades, watering cans, large plastic water containers, pick mattocks, bolos, spading fork, digging bars and hand shovels

We managed to purchase these items at very good prices thanks to the support of two local hardware chain stores. The actual cost to AFFLIP was approximately \$1700.

We would hope to support the school food gardens program to a similar financial extent again next year.



Teacher Professional Development – Coordinator Graham Dodd

As we reported in the last Newsletter, an extensive needs analysis was conducted with the principals of the Talomo District and English Literacy has been identified as the major focus for teacher professional development with AFFLIP. Our other flagship programs will also support the Literacy theme in a variety of ways and we hope to provide some basic physical facilities which facilitate storage of materials and provide designated reading areas. Improvement in the quality of teaching and learning in the area of English Literacy is a key element of the national Department of Education agenda in the Philippines.

We have established that several English Literacy in-service programs have been provided for teachers and leaders of the Talomo District in the last 3 years focusing on beginning reading, assessment on reading and writing and the integration of reading recovery techniques. Each school has designated English and reading coordinators and Ma. Epifania Villa (Poochie) from Davao Special School is the Coordinating District Principal for both groups. A work plan has been approved and distributed to each school with specific district targets.

Requests for AFFLIP assistance to the school coordinators and principals have included teaching strategies, learning materials, useful articles, mentoring and coaching, sharing of good practices and lectures from experts. This assistance could be provided online as well as face-to-face.

There are also opportunities for the Talomo District and AFFLIP to partner with a tertiary institution such as University of South Eastern Philippines (USEP) in the delivery of an English Literacy program to the principals, Literacy Coordinators and teachers of Talomo. The Dean of Education at USEP (Bonifacio Gabales) is particularly keen to partner with AFFLIP.



Schools Network – Coordinator Trevor Tiller

Planning for the establishment of the Schools Network continues in Davao and also in South Australia. We are pleased to report that in Talomo:

- All 15 schools have committed to being paired with a SA school over time and initially the 5 largest schools have been nominated. These schools have some IT capacity to facilitate interaction with their South Australian partners.
- District Supervisor Joe De Lara and a District Coordinating Principal will be supporting and coordinating the program with the 5 school heads.
- There is a common understanding that the networks will be used in sharing the best practices of Talomo Schools and those schools in SA. We need to draft a protocol type document for further discussion.
- The Division and Region IT personnel will be available to assist the schools with online training in time. Each school has a nominated IT person with a range of capabilities to trouble shoot and install hard/software. Specific support will include assistance in the setting up of Computer Laboratory, checking of IT equipment and connectivity, minor repairs and general technical assistance
- Only 8 schools have a functioning internet connection at this stage and these are the largest ones who have a larger budget available. All schools have power which is reliable. All five schools referred to above have functioning internet connections.

In South Australia Trevor has met with a number of Principals based on York Peninsula including Andrew Gravestocks at Maitland Area School and Ali Bogle at Minlaton District School to discuss networking and their expectations. Both are keen to participate and stressed the need to now get students, staff and governing council involved for a greater chance of sustainability. A number of other Principals have also indicated interest and further discussions will follow this year. This network of schools on York Peninsula already work on a number of activities together and would form a natural and potentially effective team to work with a network in Talomo.

Trevor also spoke with students and staff at Loxton Primary School in November about the school gardens aspect of AFFLIP. The Student Representative Council held a “casual day” on 23 November (?) and donated the proceeds to AFFLIP gardens. They have also expressed interest in being a part of the AFFLIP Schools network.

In conclusion

On behalf of the AFFLIP Board, thank you for your interest in and commitment to AFFLIP. We look forward to providing you with more updates in the future and hope to see you at the AFFLIP Launch.

AFFLIP Patron: Hon. Greg Crafter AO

**Board Members: Professor Alan Reid AM (Chair), Mr. Alastair Douglas (Deputy Chair),
Dr. Graham Dodd, Mr Jock McFarlane, Mr. Trevor Tiller, Ms. Lyn Wilkinson,
Mr. Roger Saunders, Mr. John Younger (Treasurer).**