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Christmas message from Ali Douglas, AFFLIP chair.



Dear <<First Name>>

A warm welcome to the final AFFLIP newsletter for 2020 and what a year it has been! When I had the privilege of moving into the Chair's role in December 2019 we certainly did not foresee the events of the next 12 months

The AFFLIP year has really been in two sections: pre COVID and then the months of the pandemic commencing in March which have so seriously affected the schools of the Talomo District and the learning of the children.

At the time of writing there is still no face to face teaching and learning occurring in the schools of the Philippines. The administrators and teachers of Talomo have worked extremely hard to develop modules of work which their pupils have accessed through distance mode either as printed modules or online for an extremely limited number of children. The resilience shown by our colleagues never ceases to amaze me as they strive to provide the best possible learning environment they can for their charges. Marilyn Marcelo and newly appointed District Supervisor Deony Ferolino lead the 15 schools in the Talomo District as their Supervisors and do so with great purpose, commitment, and genuine concern for the welfare of pupils and teachers alike. Marilyn has been an outstanding leader since the commencement of AFFLIP In 2011 and continues to be a crucial element in the success of our partnership. AFFLIP has been built on principles such as mutuality and respect, capacity building and

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The AFFLIP Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday December 8th at the Edinburgh Hotel. At that meeting, the members approved our revised constitution and accepted the [Annual Report and Financial Statement](#) from the Board. We also reluctantly farewelled four Board members who are stepping down after years of wonderful service to the Foundation. Lyn Wilkinson (9 years), Roger Saunders (8 years), Susan Boucher (7 years) and Mario Trinidad (3 years). They have all left their mark on AFFLIP in so many different ways and I am very pleased to assure everyone that they will continue to be involved in our programs but just not as Board members. We thank them for their commitment to AFFLIP and wish them well as they take on other challenges. We have been very fortunate to have had so many years of exceptional service from them.

I am very pleased to announce that Loch Mitchell, Colin Murray, Tim Ryan, Bruce White and Guy Wilson have now formally joined the Board. I am sure their knowledge, skills and experience will be a great asset to AFFLIP and complement the talent of our continuing Board members. John Erskine joined the Board seven years ago as our Treasurer and continues to do a splendid job. His preference is to leave the role and we have been trying to find a replacement without success. John has established excellent systems supported by Peter Telford and Jess Telford of Oreon Partners and has also documented a clear concise role statement. The Board would really appreciate it if any members would consider taking on this role themselves or help in making enquiries to friends and colleagues who may be interested. Please contact me if you can help.

On the fundraising front I would like to bring your attention to the following:

- The Annual AFFLIP dinner will be held on February 12th 2021 at the Pavilion on South Terrace in Adelaide. This is our main fundraiser for the year and we are hoping to attract 170 guests again so please join us. Flyer with details below. Any items you may wish to donate for the Live and Silent auctions would be gratefully accepted.
- A few years ago several of our members decided to give AFFLIP scholarships to family members in lieu of Christmas presents. The cost of a scholarship is \$100 and if you would like

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- Don't forget our two wine promotions if you are looking for some festive cheer. Any purchases also include a commission for AFFLIP.

- o Chris Insanally at Savitas wines cinsanally@savitaswines.com

- o Ali Kerr at Wine Direct sales@winedirect.com.au

- We are having fruitful discussions with a number of corporate groups and businesses particularly those with a strong relationship with the Philippines. We aim to find 12 corporate partners who will make a commitment to AFFLIP over three years. I am absolutely thrilled to be able to tell you that Mark McBriarty and his company My Care Solution has committed to donating \$15,000 over the next three years.

In closing I thank:

AFFLIP Members, supporters, and sponsors: AFFLIP could not function effectively without the generosity of our members, supporters, and sponsors. On behalf of the Board, I sincerely thank each one of you for your willingness to donate both time and financial support to AFFLIP. We appreciate your encouragement and enthusiasm for what we are doing together and your shared belief in the cause.

Our Talomo and DepEd partners: Marilyn Marcelo and the School Heads and teachers of the Talomo schools, newly appointed District Supervisor Deony Ferolino, Assistant Regional Director Dr Ines Asuncion, and Schools' Division Superintendent of Davao City, Reynaldo Guillena and Division staff. We value your critical role in our partnership. Without your commitment, initiative and understanding, AFFLIP would not be the success that it is today.

Oreon Partners: AFFLIP is indebted once again to Peter Telford and Jess Telford from Oreon Partners (Chartered Accountants and Financial Planners) for their ongoing support, expertise, and wise counsel.

Alan Reid: Our thanks to Alan for his work with the Board in the revision of the Philosophy and importantly his input into the process to clarify AFFLIP's future direction.

Dale Mazzachi: We are most grateful to Dale Mazzachi of Norman Waterhouse for his advice to the Governance committee and his drafting of a revised AFFLIP constitution.

Filipino Community of South Australia: Darryl Johnson (current Honorary Consul to the Philippines), Mark McBriarty (former Philippines Honorary Consul) and Lee McBriarty, have continued to be great advocates for AFFLIP. Board members Miriam Cocking and Irene Rowe provide excellent conduits to the Filipino community.

The AFFLIP Board, Executive Group and Patrons Greg Crafter and Alan Reid: I cannot thank this band of fine people enough for all they do for AFFLIP. They have such great passion for the cause, a genuine willingness to share their significant skills and knowledge, and an energy which is reflected in the relationships they forge both here and in the Philippines.

As Chairperson of AFFLIP I feel proud of what we are achieving together as an organisation and I look forward to 2021 as we build on the programs and activities of this past year and expand into some new and exciting initiatives in collaboration with our Talomo colleagues.

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Alastair Douglas

December 17th, 2020

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