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Subject: AFFLIP News No 1 - April 2021  
Date: 27 April 2021 at 2:43 pm  
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# AFFLIP News No 1 - April 2021

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Donate

Dear \${contact.Name.First}

Welcome to a new AFFLIP year which I trust holds much promise for all of us!

## From the Chair

### **It has been a rewarding journey since 2011**

Since our incorporation in November 2011 our members, sponsors, and donors continue to be the lifeblood of the foundation. We can all be very proud of the fact that over the past 9 years:

- \$80,000 has been raised for student scholarships
- \$70,000 for Health and Nutrition Projects
- \$50,000 to bring delegations of Filipino educators to South Australia as part of the Schools Learning Network and Outdoor Learning portfolios
- \$16,000 for Outdoor Learning Projects
- \$10,000 for literacy related equipment and supplies
- \$90,000 worth of donated and purchased books have been shipped to Talomo.
- \$7,000 to the Talomo schools contributed by Schools in S.A. either individually or as part of the Schools Learning Network.

### **Fundraising Dinner a huge success**

The major AFFLIP fundraiser for this year was held on Friday 12th February with 161 AFFLIP members and guests gathered at the Adelaide Pavilion, Veale Gardens to raise funds to support the Foundation's flagship programs. We were delighted with the outstanding attendance given the uncertainties of these COVID times and in fact there were a further five guests who could not attend at the last minute given the imposition of travel restrictions.



*Photo: Patron of AFFLIP, The Hon. Greg Crafter with Mario and Julie Trinidad*



*Photo: Chair of AFFLIP, Alastair Douglas addressing the Annual Dinner*



### **What a night it was!**

The Filipino Malong dancers kicked-off the night *with a bang* and Elizabeth & Isabel Rowe entertained us with some wonderful violin pieces. We thank them all for their significant part in creating an ambience for the evening.

For those who were unable to join us on the night, we are **always** grateful to receive donations. By clicking on the button below you will be able to find out more about how to make a donation (credit card, direct debit and by cheque) that will be directed to the range of educational programs which we support in the Philippines.

You can make a donation by clicking [here](#).....



AFFLIP Annual Dinner ..... a delightful mix of friendship and diversity

[Read more about the dinner here](#)

## What a year it has been!

At the AFFLIP Fundraising Dinner I reflected on the fact that 12 months ago everything was relatively normal in the world and in the Talomo schools, but merely a month later all schools were closed, and Davao was in an extended lock down. 11 months later 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 incredibly hard to develop modules of work, which their pupils have completed at home as a means of continuing their learning. This has occurred either through the provision of hard copy documents or, for an extremely limited number of children, online.

In a recent email Marilyn Marcelo, an outstanding leader, and one of the two District Supervisors of the Talomo District along with newly appointed Deony Ferolino, wrote an enlightening email.

[Read it here](#)

## Continuing development in Talomo District

During the pandemic members of the Board have maintained close contact with the Talomo group through email, social media platforms and Zoom meetings, which has been one of the significant positives of the predicament in which we find ourselves. The implications of the pandemic for the 5 AFFLIP Flagship Programs have been significant but it has not stopped them pushing forward.

**Scholarships:** At the request of the Talomo administrators, the Board made the decision to provide tablets and sim cards for our 142 sponsored scholarship students this year ~ given that the regular items normally supplied were not required. This has enabled the scholars to join the online learning program and enjoy the benefits of paperless learning.



It is significant to note that there have been 320 children involved in the 3-year scholarship program since 2013 and to our knowledge only 1 child has not progressed to high school. This achievement has been made possible through the generosity of our members in donating \$100/year/pupil.

*Photo: Roger Saunders gathering feedback during an evaluation program*





**Health and Nutrition:** AFFLIP has continued to support all schools with the provision of gardening equipment, basic first aid supplies and the promotion of first aid training. Previously AFFLIP has also supported impressive major projects in aquaponics, hydroponics, elevated greenhouses, and plant nurseries, all of which have been designed to intensify food production and increase output.

The present objective is to help schools sustain their feeding programs once children return, through the growing of vegetables, tending of fishponds and rearing of chickens. Currently the gardens are maintained by local families who can also take the produce.

*Photo: Container gardening on mobile stands and hydroponic vegetable production @ Talomo Central Elementary School*

**Schools Learning Network:** The focus of the program this year has been preparation for a return to face-to-face teaching in the Talomo schools ~ and subsequent interaction with their twin schools in SA.

**Learning in the Outdoor Environment (OLEP):** Applications for 15 new projects have been received, assessed and funds allocated, pending the return to face-to-face schooling. All 15 schools have developed a bank of learning activity sheets using the outdoor environment in several subjects including

Maths, Science, Livelihood and English, something very new for the Philippines.

**Professional Development in Literacy:** The focus areas of this flagship program continue to be firstly: provision of professional development for teachers - particularly in reading and secondly: access to varied and interesting literacy resources in classrooms. An exciting current initiative in the resources area is the 'Book Box' scheme, the aim of which is to support implementation of a Guided Reading Strategy through the provision of appropriate reading books for pupils in grades K – 6, accompanied by professional development for teachers.



### **Magic Libraries Foundation, Geneva**

We have recently received a magnificent \$20,000 grant from the Magic Libraries Foundation in Geneva to kick-start this program, and we are currently working with a Philippines book company to source the required titles.

*Photo: Reading Room @  
Generoso ES*

# AFFLIP Board Changes

Since AFFLIP commenced 30 people have served on the Board and we have been very fortunate to have three active patrons in Greg Crafter, Stephen Baker and Alan Reid.

The annual fundraising dinner provided the opportunity for me to thank retiring Board members Lyn Wilkinson (9 years), Roger Saunders (8 years), Susan Boucher (7 years) and Mario Trinidad (3 years) for their service to AFFLIP. Fortunately for AFFLIP, they have offered to continue to be involved in our programs, just not as Board members.

I was also pleased to be able to introduce our new Board members: Loch Mitchell, Colin Murray, Tim Ryan, Bruce White, Guy Wilson and Steve Southwood.

I am sure their collective knowledge, skills and experience will be a great asset to AFFLIP and complement the talent of our continuing Board members – Trevor Tiller, Miriam Cocking, Irene Rowe, Max Greenwood, Jeanette Emery, Tim Jackson, Pat Maloney, and Yvonne Zeegers who has taken on the role of Secretary.

John Erskine joined the Board 7 years ago as our Treasurer and will step down mid-year after years of excellent service, passing the treasurer's baton to Steve Southwood.

A big thank you John!



## Flagship Learning Programs

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Health and Nutrition

Trevor Tiller  
Irene Rowe

Learning through the Outdoor Environment

Pat Maloney

Professional Development for teachers and administrators in Literary

Max Greenwood  
Jeanette Emery





Scholarships	Lyn Wilkinson  Loch Mitchell Roger Saunders John Erskine
Schools Learning Network	Yvonne Zeegers Jeanette Emery
Research, Evaluation and Strategic Innovation	Bruce White Alan Reid Yvonne Zeegers

## Admin & Finance Portfolios

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Communication utilising social media, website, newsletter	Colin Murray Susan Boucher Roger Saunders Lyn Wilkinson Paul Godwin
Administration (Secretary)	Yvonne Zeegers Alastair Douglas
Membership	Max Greenwood
Finance (Treasurer)	John Erskine Steve Southwood
Governance and Strategic Planning	Tim Jackson Alastair Douglas Yvonne Zeegers John Erskine/Steve Southwood
Liason with the Filipino Community	Miriam Cocking Irene Rowe Mario Trinidad
Partnerships (sponsorships and grants)	Tim Ryan Alastair Douglas Tim Jackson John Erskine Kathy Rowland Deslie Billich
Events	Guy Wilson Susan Boucher Alastair Douglas

If you would like to find out more about any of the AFFLIP Flagship Programs or Administration and Finance portfolios, please contact the coordinators listed above.

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My sincere thanks for your support and commitment to AFFLIP.  
Alastair Douglas, April 2021

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## A note from the Editor

As a newcomer to the AFFLIP community I am impressed by the blend of dedication and determination displayed by people both in The Philippines and in Australia. Their contributions **will** promote opportunities for young people.

As a newcomer to The Board of AFFLIP I continue to be conscious of the expertise and passion demonstrated by fellow Board members.

With collaboration and collective energy we will continue to make a difference to those with whom we interact.

Colin Murray  
Incoming Communications Co-ordinator

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