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The fullness of Manny's four seasons

It is indeed a celebration when a prolific writer like Manny G. Asuncion launches a book titled "Seasons: An Anthology of Filipino-Australian Plays Down Under". The book launching coincides with the celebration of his 70th fruitful life in academe, literary scene and community work. Manny is shown here with Nanay Cita Esmaquel (right) and daughters, Angelica and Thelma during the book signing. (Photo by Rolly Ferrer. **SEE STORY AND MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 24**.)

FILCCA to hold confab

Gears up Pinoys to face future together

AROUND 200 community leaders from different states of Australia will take part in the 13th National Conference of the Filipino Communities Council of Australia Inc. (FILCCA), the national umbrella body of Filipino community organisations in Australia. The conference will be held on 24-26 October 2014 at Novotel Hotel, Parramatta, Western Sydney.

"The National conference happens bi-ennially, which is the only opportunity for Filipinos across Australia to come together to discuss issues of concerns. There are a number of special guests from across the mainstream and political arena of both the Australian and Filipino political community. This will be a great opportunity for Filipinos to keep abreast of the current political and economic issues," Aida Garcia, FILCCA President, told The Philippine Times.

The conference will focus on five main topics: "Innovation, Ideas and International Opportunities", "Filipino Women: Leadership, Influence and Inspiration", "Disaster - Management and Response: Role of Overseas Filipinos", "An Ageing Fili-

Continued on page 19

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Halo-halo Festival celebrates Melbourne's diversity

Earvin Charles B. Cabalquinto

Incoming Philippine Consul of Victoria Felix Pintado

FOR A multicultural and vibrant city like Melbourne, it is not difficult to be treated with events that reflect diversity. Held at St. Bernadette's Community Reception in Sunshine North last 30 August 2014, the first ever AECC Global Halo-halo festival, a musical theatre event, was staged with a host of talented performers from different backgrounds.

Incoming Philippine Honorary Consul for Victoria Felix Pintado officially opened the musical event by acknowledging the complementary role of the musical in celebrating diversity in Melbourne.

The musical event was divided in four acts with performances from solo artists and choral groups. The first act highlighted patriotic Filipino songs performed by Harmonico Filipino, Kit Tamani and Connect City Church Choir. A Broadway themed act followed, showcasing performances of Czarina Lapus and Caine White (Sun and Moon from Miss Saigon) and Zabrina Araya (Circle of Life from Lion King). Their renditions were spiced up by interpretative dances of Susan and Joe Caruana (Sun and Moon) and Dominic Steele (Circle of Life).

Filling the third act with entertaining numbers were a Cha Cha groove from several pairs of dancers and an enchanting performance with a violin from Mr. Shen. Impressive rhythms and melodies thrilled the audience as the fourth act began. BJ Trillado, who reached the boot camp in the 2013 X-Factor Australia, played the guitar and sang "Give Love a Try". Kid wonder CJ belted out with a song "Let it Go". Justin Vazquez, who also reached the boot camp in the 2014 X-Factor Australia, serenaded everyone with his guitar and voice with the song "Somebody to Love". Lastly, Mary Ann Van Der Horst, also a boot camp finalist of 2014 X-Factor Australia, sang her powerful rendition of "Titanium" and Gabriella Louise Martinez entertained the audience with her juggling act.

Before capping off the festival, George Gregorio of Sandok Production thanked everyone who made the festival a success. In his closing remarks, he emphasized, "Halo-halo festival is not a festival of Halo-halo. It is a festival in which we focus on talents and we try to enrich multicultural talents." Mr. Gregorio's remarks was followed by an all-star cast performance.

One of the fastest rising Pinoy bands in Melbourne, Our Tribe Band, also played in the festival with hit songs such as Hard to handle, Elisi, Hinahanap-hanap kita, Yugyugan Na, and a lot more.

The Halo-Halo festival is made possible through Sandok Production, AECC Global, Philippine Tours, The Philippine Times, Western Union, Clazzy Events, and Liz Honey.

Other members of Sandok are Chito Javier, Susan Rodriguez and Tess Gregorio. (Photos by Edwin Tuazon, Irma Modesto and Jen Azzopardi).

Connect City Church Choir

Kit Tamani sings "Babalik Ka Rin"

Dominic Steele dances Circle of Life

Susan and Joe Caruana

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The Ice Bucket Challenge

THE ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has taken the world by storm. In a very short time, the ALS Association has raised more than a $100 million and has attracted a multitude of famous people like Microsoft's Bill Gates. Australia, on the other hand, has already contributed over $800,000 for the motor neurone disease and research. The challenge raised awareness about the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) or Lou Gehrig's Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

This challenge has very simple mechanics: pour a bucket of very cold iced water over your head and donate whatever amount or give $100 and forget about the challenge. If a person decides to do the former, he or she has the option to nominate at least three people who then have 24 hours to fulfil it, including nominating others -- a "pass it on" game with a more social-driven cause.

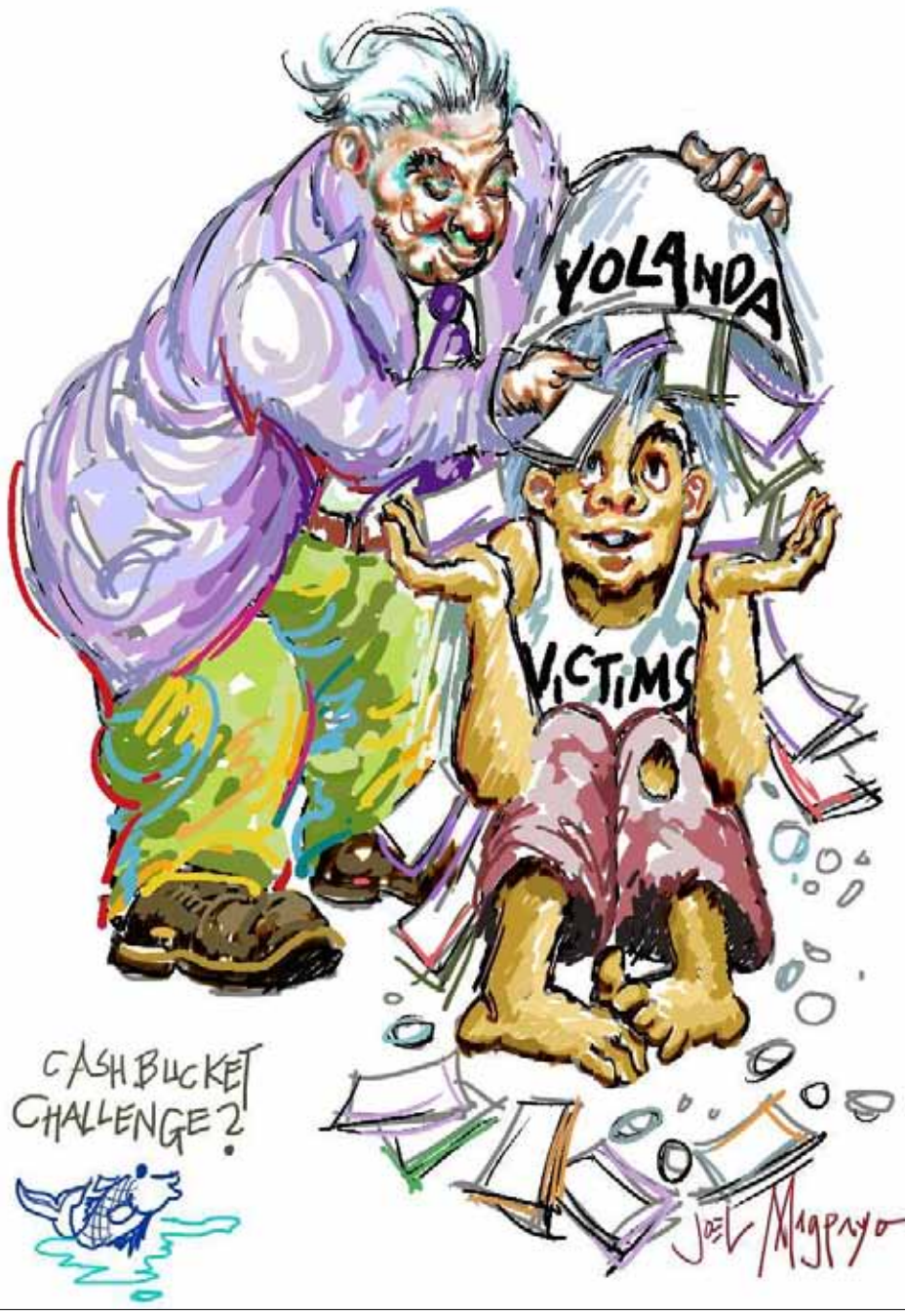
Although the concept of the challenge is not entirely new—as early as 2013 many had already participated in cold water challenge for other causes like cancer research—this most recent one still ends up being successful for many reasons.

For one, the process is simple. In less than 30 seconds, you can already meet the requirements and/or donate. Second, whether you like it or not, it's actually a fun thing to do by your lonesome or with the entire community. Third, it works on behalf of a good cause.

The challenge therefore has changed the way we do charity. It gets more people to do a specific action, whether to raise awareness or contribute to a goal. It helps organisations and individuals usually cash-strapped to meet objectives and increase funds the quickest way possible. Moreover, it touches on two very critical things that matter to many today: the potential to become viral and emotions. In fact, it's so effective others are following suit. The sand and rubble bucket challenges are already gaining ground in support of Gaza.

This then makes us think: perhaps the Filipinos in Australia can do a similar simple challenge (or even the exact challenge) for a cause that hits closer to home, like giving more for Yolanda victims.

For some, this kind of campaign is slacktivism. However, when it comes to social support, nothing is ever considered small. We can do the same for our community causes.



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Victorian Int'l Education Awards finalists announced

VICTORIAN EDUCATION providers from universities, vocational and educational training and English language training institutions, as well as students from more than ten countries have been announced recently as finalists for the prestigious Victorian International Education Awards 2014 by the Minister for Employment and Trade Louise Asher.

Now on its second year, the annual Education Awards recognise and celebrate leaders in Victoria's international education sector and the outstanding achievements of both institutions and international students benefiting from Victoria's world-class education services.

The Awards acknowledge 17 education provider finalists, including businesses and not-for-profit organisations across eight categories, which have delivered outstanding services and programs for international students.

Ms Asher said the 2014 finalists exhibit leading practice in delivering high quality education to diverse cultural groups, global research engagement, international student support, careers and employability services and global student mobility.

"Our state attracts around 140,000 international student enrolments each year, and the Awards showcase the unique, valuable and diverse contribution made by international education to the Victorian community."

International education is now Victoria's single largest export industry, contributing almost $4.5 billion to the state's economy and providing around 30,000 jobs in 2013.

Winners of the individual student awards will receive scholarships of up to $10,000 for study related expenses at a Victorian educational institution.

For more information visit http://awards.studymelbourne.vic.gov.au.

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Queer Life

RYAN PERDIO

Bridal Waltz

WEDDINGS ALWAYS make me feel a little strange. Perhaps it's the fact that everyone in attendance are often in some form of coupling. Straight coupling. Husband and wife. Boyfriend and girlfriend. De facto partners. Even those who aren't – bachelors and single gals – are usually eyeing one another.

I feel like a lone gay island surrounded by an ocean of heterosexuality…

"I hate weddings, don't you?" the girl sitting opposite me says out loud.

I look away from the dance floor where the rest of the guests have congregated, enticed by the swelling tunes of the bridal waltz.

"This one's not so bad," I smile at her.

It's Saturday night and we're in the beautifully adorned halls of the reception venue. White linen covered tables pepper the room, each littered with porcelain dishes and silver cutlery. The wine glasses filled with an assortment of coloured liquids. The speeches done, the dinner served, and the formality dispensed with. All and sundry are up and dancing the night away.

Well, almost.

From our table of ten now sit only two: me – the gay man – and the girl – presumably single. I don't know her, she doesn't know me, but for the evening, we share space together. She looks enviously across the room to the dance floor of couples, intimately holding and tightly turning.

"So, how do you know the newlyweds?" I ask, attempting to distract from the growing melancholy.

"I'm a friend of the groom. You?"

"I work with the bride."

Smiles exchanged. Silence.

"I'm Marissa, by the way." She gets up from her seat and comes sits next to mine. I shift to face her.

"I'm Ryan. Nice to meet you."

"Same." More silence. A beat. "So, where's your date?"

I should have expected the question but am still slightly surprised. I have a feeling where this is going. "Don't have one. Yours?"

"Same." Another beat. Another smile. "It sucks being single at a wedding."

"Yep. It's couple city," I jest.

"So, how come you don't have a date?" she quizzes with a knowing grin. I'm about to answer but she goes on. "Shame, really. Cute guy like you… anyone here you fancy?"

Yep, I definitely know where this is going. I smile, look back at the dance floor. I point out a couple. "See that two?"

"Oh, yes… I guess she's cute."

"Yeah. But he's cuter."

I turn to face her and wait for the penny to drop. One second. Two second. Then it registers.

"Oh!" she exclaims, her grin faltering. "I see."

She turns to stare at the dance floor, the silence hanging.

"Wanna dance?" I ask.

She looks back at me surprised. "Yes, I'd like that."

"Great – let's go!" I reach for her hand.

"Okay, but one thing," she says before taking mine, "let's bump that girl off that cute guy. After all, he's the best man."

She winks slyly as we go and join the rest of the guests doing the bridal waltz.

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Nine years of Misa ng Pasasalamat

R.S. Malana

LAST 23 August 2014 marked the 9th anniversary of the Misa ng Pasasalamat (Filipino Mass) at Holy Eucharist Parish in St Albans. The Mass was celebrated by the newly-appointed Filipino Chaplain, Father Joselito Asis, cs. Citing the gospel according to St Matthew whereby St Peter was appointed as the "rock" upon which the Church was built on, Father Asis issued a challenge to each attendee and that is, to be a stronghold of faith by encouraging the attendance of at least one more *kababayan* at every monthly Filipino Mass.

The Eucharistic Celebration was followed by a fiesta held at the parish hall with 130 *kababayans* in attendance. The event performers featured representatives of five of the seven Melbourne choirs comprising the Filipino Grand Chorus of Melbourne, the official choir of the Filipino Chaplaincy. The crowd was serenaded by performers from Harmonico Filipino, the young talents from MDP Group in Hoppers Crossing, Northern Lights, Couples for Christ and the Filipino Choir of St Francis. One of the highlights of the evening was a dance number by Northern Lights from Our Lady's Parish in Craigieburn.

Truly, the celebration was an opportunity to witness the unity of the Filipino community.

The next monthly Filipino Mass at St Albans will be celebrated on 7 September 2014 at 3:30pm. All are welcome.

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The Spine and Limb Foundation is dedicated to supporting people with spinal cord paralysis sustained through injury or disease, and those with traumatic and genetic limb loss.

The foundation helps the elderly and provides rehabilitation assistance to patients moving back into the community following discharge from hospital. It also provides support, information, advice and advocacy services to help people with a disability take part in community life.

Manager Bryan Godfrey says customers can find a great range of apparel and accessories in store.

"We are very selective of the quality of goods we sell," he says. "These goods may have otherwise gone to landfill, so we are helping the environment by selling them to people who can use them." All proceeds from these sales are directed to the Foundation to fund our programmes.

Godfrey says Paravin has donation bins. "We can also do door-to-door collections, so people can make donations. When we come around or call us and organise for donations to be picked up."

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Of great dancing, fun and friendship

THE CASA De Baile Dinner Dance which will be held on 13 September 2014 at Grand Star Reception Centre in Altona North promises to be a night of great dancing, fun and friendship.

Guests will enjoy open dance, Zumba, dance instructions and floorshow. The organisers Roberto and Marie said, "The event's main goal to unite the Filipino community is achieved as friends and guests from the West, East and Southeast Melbourne can participate in the floorshow which showcases sexy samba, lovely foxstrut, cheeky chachacha, sweet waltz, bachata romantica, rock n roll, swing, reggae, American hassle disco, salsa caliente, paso doble, rhumba bolero, Argentine tango dances plus the salseros.

Ticket is at $65 which includes five-course meal and unlimited beer/wine/soft drinks. It also includes a raffle.

Part of the proceeds of the night will go to Gawad Kalinga's Feeding Program in the Philippines. Every $1 donation it can feed two school kids in a day.

"The camaraderie amongst us is very significant but will be meaningful because we are helping the needy back home. Let us be a blessing to the lives of these people," Marie said.

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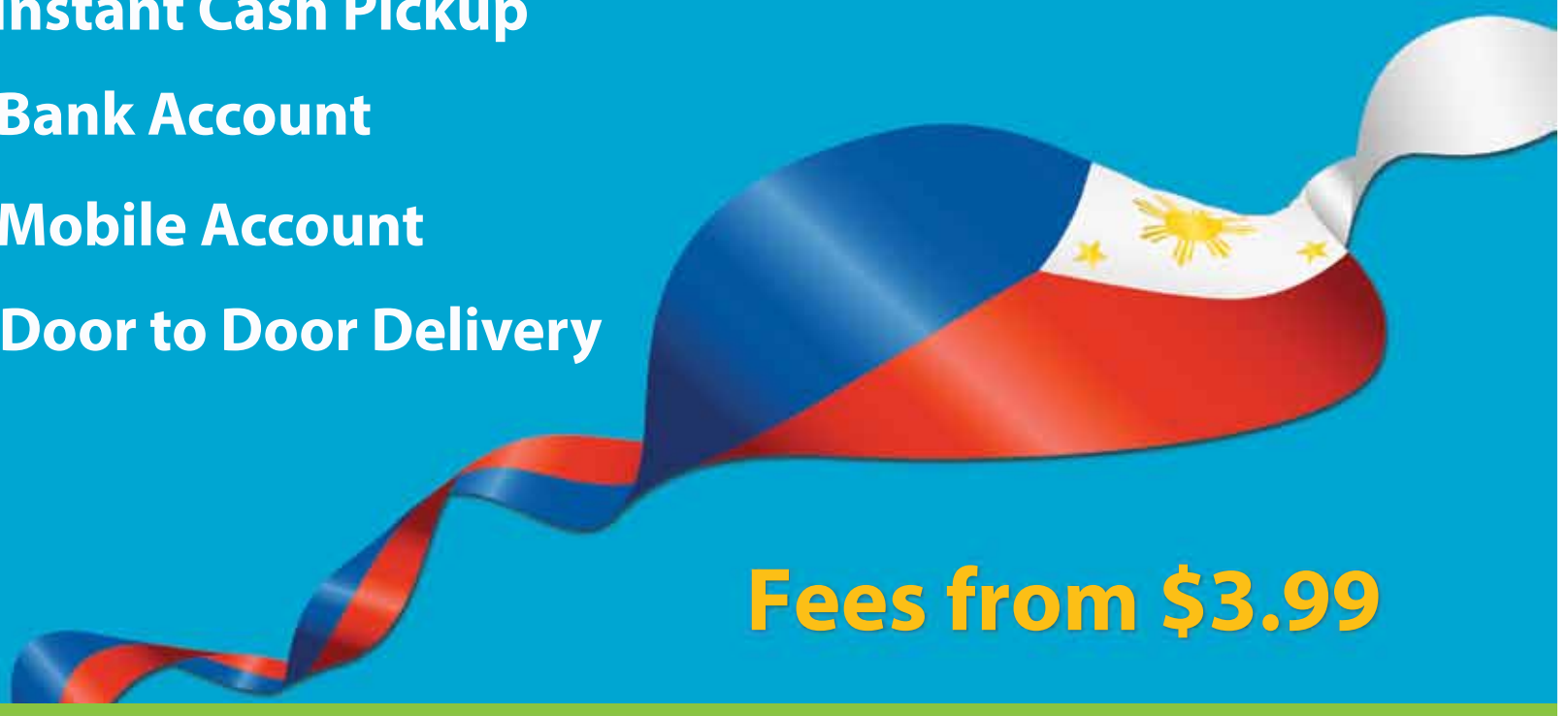

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Vodafone's Chief Marketing Officer Kim Clarke said "Customer feedback was at the heart of the design of our Red plans. Customers have told us they want a plan designed to suit their needs such as easy access to international calling, more data included in their plans and more affordable roaming rates."

Read full article: http://philtimes.com.au/vodafones-flexible-deal-for-local-and-international-calls/

AMSSG meets with multicultural groups

THE AUSTRALIAN Multicultural Seniors Support Group committee recently attended the Peninsula Ethnic Services Committee meeting at Mornington Peninsula Shire Coincil Chambers. Different clubs read their reports and discussed issues about their organisations. Representatives from Centrelink, Frankston City Council, New Hope Foundation, Mornington Shire and NTCA discussed services they offer.

The Peninsula Dementia Action Group representatives also talked about dementia.

Protect yourself when booking holidays

A NEW campaign by Australia's consumer protection agencies is reminding travellers of the simple steps they can take to protect their travel and holiday bookings.

Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria Dr Claire Noone says that increased competition and the growth of online bookings has changed the way people plan and purchase their trips. "Look at reviews and ask family, friends and others in your community for their recommendations. If you are booking with a travel agent, check that they are accredited. Any business you book with, either in person or online, should have clearly stated refund and complaint policies," says Dr Noone.

"Credit cards can be a more expensive way to pay for purchases but do offer some protection as consumers may be able to seek a reverse payment from their bank if they book and do not get what they paid for."

Holidaymakers are strongly encouraged to take out comprehensive travel insurance when they are travelling, and check what circumstances and activities are not covered by their policies.

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Colours of Life

DINA MANANQUIL-DELFINO

Finding Nemo

AS PART of my 30th wedding anniversary, I took my family for a weekend holiday to Sydney. We agreed for it to be a relaxing adventure so no whining was allowed. The Lord was kind to us- the flights were on time, the weather was fine and the support of my niece and nephews who live in Sydney made the trip less challenging as they patiently showed us around, walking miles with us. We were rewarded with the wonderful sights and sounds of Sydney CBD.

My granddaughter Eva, aged four, declared it was an adventure of a lifetime-and she was expecting to find Nemo there. She has watched the film many times, and like Dory, in her attempt to rescue Nemo memorised the address where the fish was possibly taken: P Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney. This became a joke for us during the trip! Until that frightening morning when we had a stop-over at a food court that had multiple exits and we lost Eva for a few minutes. Loss, of any kind, temporary or permanent, leaves a distressing and painful sensation. I was shaking all over, trying to look for her, running like a crazy woman, praying like I have never prayed before that we would find her soon. Almost in tears and face-ashen, I was so angry with myself and my husband for letting her out of our sight –she bolted from us in a matter of seconds!

I called on every saint and my late mom to help find her. No amount of money could recompense such a find. After some agonising minutes (seemed like a lifetime), I saw her atop a flight of stairs, looking over the shop across the road, where her mom stopped by to look for some gym wear. I wanted to "freeze" her. Although relieved, I was terribly frightened of the thought of her bolting out into the very busy street. My imagination ran wild as I remember all the freak incidents on the news of how people lose loved ones permanently and tragically.

When we arrived back in Melbourne, I spent days thanking God for his kindness, mercy and protection. One night, I dreamt of my late mom, looking down on us. I knew in my heart she interceded for us. Eva was the "last" great-grandchild she cared for, before she passed away, cuddling her even when she was suffering from chest pains. I cry when I remember this scene of such sacrifice, and wonder if I could ever match her great love.

A theologian with the heart of a poet, Rabbi David Wolpe explores the meaning of loss and the way we can use its inevitable appearance in our lives as a source of strength rather than a source of despair. The author's search for meaningful ways to deal with loss came soon after his wife, Ellie, was diagnosed with cancer. He admits that his "life was suddenly full of shadows. Some losses, he shares, are so subtle they go unnoticed, some so overwhelming and cruel they seem unbearable. Coping with grief and experiencing loss overwhelm us in ways that seem both hopeless and endless. In painful moments like these, we must make a choice: will we allow the difficulties we face to become forces of destruction in our lives, or will we find a way to begin learning from loss, transforming our suffering into a source of strength?

I must admit that after losing my older brother, my mom, some friends and community members (permanent physical loss), and losing Eva for a few minutes (temporary loss), I cannot claim to ever be prepared for it. When it comes, it hits like a ton of bricks and life is never the same again. Grief and fear do not magically end after our loss. I just need to walk through the dark shadows, knowing that I love the person very much that is why the pain is profoundly great. I just need to learn to be grateful that I had shared those remarkable moments with the person. I could only continue to pray for healing and comfort. In humility I must admit that I am not alone in this human experience and I can find someone to share it with.

"Just as we fall beside the road, discouraged with life, bowed down with the load, we lift our eyes and what seemed a dead end, is the street of dreams, where we meet a friend." –Helen Steiner –Rice

Religious Organisations

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA
ADULT WS: Wednesday 7.30 PM, Sunday 9.30 AM
Every last Saturday of the month Tagalog 7.30 PM
CWS: Sunday 11.30 PM
501 The Parade, Magill, South Australia
Francis Ferdinand Salas
Mobile 0451 667 226
Email jrfsalas@yahoo.com

PORT ADELAIDE GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE
c/o Raul C, Santos
0433 217 794
raulsantos007@yahoo.com.au
11 Clearview Crescent, Clearview SA 5083 Australia
Adult WS: Thursday 7PM & Saturday 4PM

PERTH CONGREGATION
Brother Federico Beltran, Jr.
0403 022 056
jc.bel49@yahoo.com
494 Morley Drive, Morley, WA 6062
Phone +61 8 9275 8514
Fax +61 8 9275 8514
Adult WS
Wed 730PM English
Thu 5:30 AM Tagalog
Thu 7:30PM English
Sat 3:00 PM at 7:30 PM English
Children's Worship Service
5:00 PM English

KALGOORLIE GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE
Brother Reynaldo De Guia, Jr.
+61 423 658 307
jeckdeg@yahoo.com
13-A Warman Way, Boulder, WA 6432
+61 8 9022 7268
Adult WS
Wed 730PM
Sunday 6:30PM

MILDURA GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE
c/o Henry Degamo, Jr.
Mobile 0403 462 096
jojojr08degamo@yahoo.com
Unit 1/7 Wittman Avenue Mildura, Australia
Worship Service Schedule: Thursday 8:00 PM, Sunday 5.00 PM

MELBOURNE CONGREGATION
Brother Brian McMahon
Mobile 0423 690 474; 0430 930 710
241-245 Civic Parade, ALTONA
Tel. No. 9398-2396 Fax No. 9398-1866
ADULT WS: Thursday 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM English, Sunday 8.00 AM and 10.30 AM English
Every last Saturday of the Month 6.00 PM Filipino
CWS: Sunday 8.00 AM English

BRIMBANK CONGREGATION
Brother Rivie Lagasa, Sr.
Mobile 0433 543 779
Keilor Down Community Hall
70 Taylors Road, KEILOR DOWN
Phone 8361-6398
Fax 03 9390 6846
ADULT WS: Tuesday 8:00 PM English
Wednesday 10.00 AM English, Saturday 5.00 PM English
Every last Saturday of the Month 7.00 PM Filipino
CWS: Saturday 6.30 PM English

BENDIGO EXTENSION (BRIMBANK CONGREGATION)
Brother Raul Terrado
Phone 03 5447 8784
29 Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat, BENDIGO
ADULTS: Wednesday 7.00 PM English

MERRILANDS CONGREGATION
Brother Roberto Malong
Mobile 0423 947 592
Merrilands Community Centre
31-35 Sturdee St., RESERVOIR
ADULT WS: Thursday 8.00 PM English
Saturday 9.30 AM English
CWS: Saturday 11.00 AM English

WYNDHAM CONGREGATION
Brother Al Ocon
Mobile 0422 560 945
Tarneit Community Learning Centre
150 Sunset Views Blvd. corner Leakes Road, Tarneit
Fax 03 9748 2971
ADULT WS: Wednesday 5.45 AM English
Wednesday 8.00 PM English
Saturday 7:30 PM English
CWS: Saturday 6.00 PM English

DANDENONG CONGREGATION
Brother Enrico Velante
Mobile 0433 601 004
Fleetwood Primary School Hall
101 Fleetwood Drive, NARRE WARREN
Telefax 9799-6962
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12 Von Nida Drive, Cranbourne North
Telefax 03 9799 6962
ADULT WS: Wednesday 6.00 AM English
(Filipino - Every last Wednesday of the month)

KINGSTON CITY GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE
Aries Marquina
Phone 0429 877 123
Moorabbin Primary School
Worthing, Moorabbin
Telefax 03 9799 6962
ADULT WS: Thursday 8.00 PM; Sunday 9.30 AM English
Children Worship Service (CWS): Sunday 11.00 AM

GIPPSLAND GROUP WORSHIP SERVICE
Brother Richardson Suniga
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Traralgon Court House
161-166 Franklin Street, Traralgon 3844
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Worship service – Sunday 10.00 AM -12.00 NN

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Seaford Community Centre, Station Street, Seaford VIC (Mel Ref. 427, C2)
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Mobile 0434 339 011
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GOD WITH US, CHELSEA
Chelsea Height Community Centre
Thames Promenade, Chelsea Heights
Contact: Pastor Fred Fererro
Mobile 0412 029 516
Sunday Services from 10.00 AM - 12.00 NN

AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP (GWU Cranbourne)
Cranbourne Public Hall
Cnr Clarendon & High Streets, Cranbourne
Contact: Pastor Dick Marcial
Mobile 0430 006 095
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FAVI holds Independence Ball

THE FILIPINO Association of Victoria (FAVI) led by Mila Cathery held the traditional celebration of Philippine Independence Ball at the luxurious Langham Hotel last 30 August 2014. The event was an indulgence of class, good food, live band and get-together of friends.

The highlight of the programme was a dance number presented by the group of Rose Simonsen wearing elaborate costumes.

FAVI officers are: President Mila Cathery; Vice President Divine Basa; Secretary Rebecca Evenden; Auditor Helena Padanis and Committee Officers Francis Solier and Precy Whitehead.

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Philippine Fiesta Beauty Quest is on

Choy Symes

WHY ARE we still running the Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Beauty Quest Pageant? We still run it because we believe that it is part of our culture here in Melbourne. Back in the Philippines, a fiesta is not complete without the beauty pageant and beauty queens and we inherit and practice that tradition here in Melbourne because we are proud of it. For me it is a celebration of Pinay beauties.

Some people are questioning why we are still in the Beauty Quest and the reason is very simple because we have the fashion to keep it going and we want to give something back to our community to help raise funds for the maintenance of the Philippine Fiesta Community Centre in Laverton. It is an unpaid voluntary work but we are proud to help.

Our Miss Philippine Fiesta of Victoria and Charity 2014 candidates are Juliet Clifford of Albion, Carla Colon of Doreen, Vera Salvo of Delahey, Hannah Miguel of Waterways and Shiela Robins of Derrimut. Candidates for the Mrs Philippine Fiesta of Victoria and Charity 2014 are Susan Villarmino of Melton, Emelita Gerella of Geelong, Jennifer Valdez of Wyndham Vale and Analisa Moore of Waterways.

We try our best to showcase a colourful and amazing presentation night of the Beauty Quest candidates because we are hoping that in our own simple way we can showcase our own Filipino ethnic culture so our fellow kababayans and other guests will appreciate our own Filipino culture. The presentation of Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc. Beauty Quest and Charity 2014 candidates was held last 23 August 23 at the Grandstar Receptions in Altona.

Our Miss Philippine Fiesta of Victoria and Charity 2014 candidates are Juliet Clifford of Albion, Carla Colon of Doreen, Vera Salvo of Delahey, Hannah Miguel of Waterways and Shiela Robins of Derrimut. Candidates for the Mrs Philippine Fiesta of Victoria and Charity 2014 are Susan Villarmino of Melton, Emelita Gerella of Geelong, Jennifer Valdez of Wyndham Vale and Analisa Moore of Waterways.

To read full article, please visit: http://philtimes.com.au/philippine-fiesta-beauty-quest-is-on/

Beauty Quest 2014 candidates and committee

Glenys Gayfer (front) with Jephte Paca and Emely Alcoseba from Kadasig Centre in Cebu.

Emely Alcoseba and Jephte Paca with the Filipino dancers.

Dr Sinclair, Kate Gayfer, Jephte Paca and Kira Sinclair assist the young people with the piñata.

Australians assisting Filipino children and families

Kadasig Aid and Development (KAID), is a voluntary organisation based in Victoria working to make a difference in the lives of children and their families in Cebu.

On 19 July, KAID had its Annual Fundraising Dinner at Ferraro Receptions in Campbellfield. The theme of the evening was 'Fiesta' to show those attending what great fun this time can be. Tables were named after an island or area of the Philippines with information attached so people could learn more. There was a parade with Sta Niño leading the way, leaders of Kadasig, young KAID people bringing the banners, a cut out of a jeepney to represent the focus of fundraising and of course Filipino dancers.

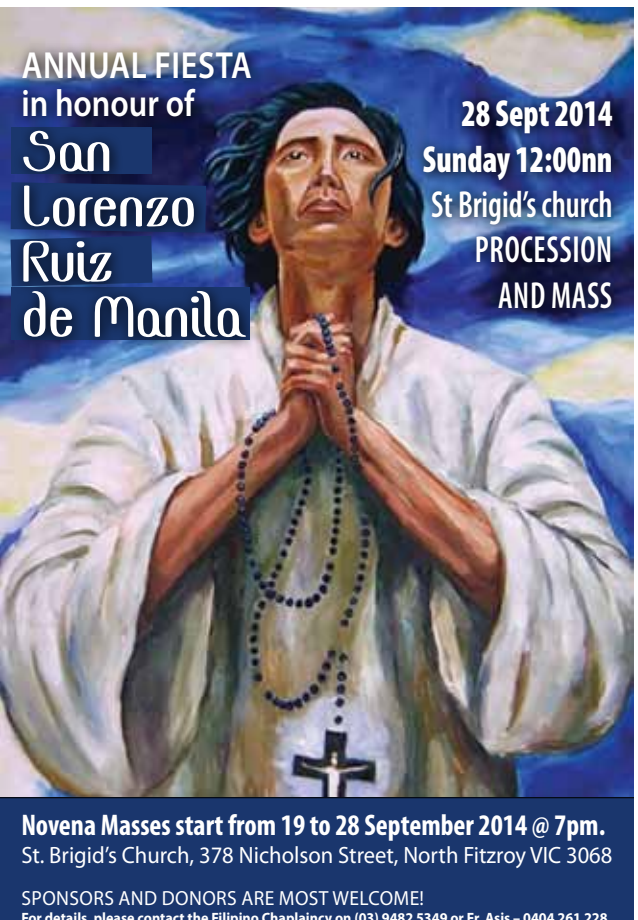
A number of the young people had visited the Philippines and had great fun trying to smash the piñata then scrambling for the lollies. Beautiful products made in the Philippines and many made by KAID committee members were on sale and purchased by enthusiastic attendees.

The social worker and coordinator of Kadasig Cebu, Ms Emely Alcoseba, along with a Kadasig Cebu part time worker and social work student being sponsored through the program, Mr Jephte Paca, were in Melbourne to present a paper to the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development on their work. Everybody associated with Kadasig was extremely proud that they were chosen to present this as we in Melbourne know they do wonderful work and run programs that are really assisting families to make the move out of poverty.

KAID was delighted to have a return ticket to the Philippines donated by Ms Gigi Kalong of Philippine Tours to be part of the fun and fundraising for the evening.

Whilst KAID in Cebu has a jeepney, the number of families now part of the organisation has expanded greatly so we have outgrown the current one. Kadasig is also reaching out more into the mountainous areas of Barili such as Matutinao Campaggna, San Rafael and Matutinao so there is a need for a four wheel vehicle.

For enquiries about KAID please contact Glenys Gayfer on 0411 196 395



This Magnificent Miss 2014 winner is a Pinay

"Winning the title of Magnificent Miss 2014 made me feel proud of myself," said Filipina-Australian model Madison Vulic, 16, who bested other Magnificent Miss candidates last 24 August 2014 at the Melbourne Pavillion in Kensington.

The Year 10 student of Mentone Girls' Secondary College said that she really worked hard and travelled a lot to rehearsals during the competition. Even at a young age, Maddie is definitely enjoying the perks and challenges of being a model. She wants though to correct the wrong notion that modelling is easy. It's not, she said. "Models aren't just a pretty face. We are the branch of the fashion industry and without us it would not work," says the young model who was recently named one of the Grand Finalists in the Top Model Worldwide Competition.

Being Ambassador of Heart Kids Foundation

Magnificent Miss is a fashion-driven event that benefits the Heart Kids Foundation. "I am the Ambassador of Heart Kids Foundation Victoria/Tasmania 2014 which I am really excited about," Maddie said.

Magnificent Miss 2014 offers young models and artists in Australia the opportunity to be part of the event to display their natural beauty and talent.

Maddie wants to focus on editorial and runway but opens her door to any category, great or small. While the determined teen wishes to one day become a well-known professional model, there is one thing she is sure of: "I will definitely finish my education."

For more details, please visit: http://www.magnificentmiss.com.au/

Photos by Noel Gosiengfiao

Ten Filipino-Australians vie for Mister Philippines 2014

TEN FILIPINO-AUSTRALIANS will vie for the title Mister Philippines Australia 2014, a male pageant competition. The winner will be competing for Mister International Philippines 2015 in the Philippines. The awarding ceremonies will be held on 27 September 2014, 6.30pm at The Grand on Cathies Lane in Wantirna.

"These Filipino-Australian candidates will eventually develop their self esteem, improve their self confidence and they will learn team work and personal development," Liza Di Blasio told The Philippine Times.

The winner in Australia will receive a return trip to the Philippines sponsored by Philippine Tours and $1000 cash sponsored by JY Accounting Services. The winner will also go to the Philippines all-expenses paid to compete for Mister International Philippines in 2015. All candidates for minor and major awards will receive trophies and medals, Di Blasio said.

Event Directors are Liza Di Blasio and Lalaine Diez, Committee, Kenny Ocampo; DJ and photographer, Melvin Diez, and choreographer, Josh Cinco.

Myles Johansson, current Ginoong Pilipinas, and Pauline Edralin, Miss Friendship and one of the Top 10 in Mutya ng Pilipinas 2014 winner, will serve as masters of ceremonies during the awarding ceremonies.

Major sponsors are Western Union and Megaworld Corporation.

For sponsorship and tickets, please contact the event directors: Liza Di Blasio, mobile 0416 816 107 and Lalaine Diez, mobile 0458 464 640.

Profile

Roy Coleiro
23 years old from Kilmore. Working in Aviation at Qantas Airlines as Avionics maintenance engineer Hobbies are flying, travelling and photography He loves to joke.

Ari Kane
23 years old from St. Albans. Currently a university student and works at Bio CSL in compliance. He loves travelling, gym and car racing.

Andrew Szabo
27 years old from Noble Park. Son of the previous Mrs. Philippines candidate. Working as telecommunication engineer. His interest is martial arts

Jeffrey Tactay
21 years old from Forest Hill. He would like to pursue a nursing course in the near future. He is currently working full time as customer service at Nando's Restaurant in Nortcote. After work, he loves going to the gym.

Daryl Jonathan Spokes
25 years old from Cranbourne. Currently holds a diploma in computer engineering. He loves boxing, fitness and hanging out with friends.

Stefan Reed
20 years old from Keilor. He holds a certificate 3-4 in fitness. His hobbies are doing training, dancing and basketball.

Daniel Polbrat
20 years old from Narre Warren. Currently an Architecture student at Melbourne University. He loves playing basketball and drawing.

David Presincula
24 years old from st. Albans. He holds a degree in bachelor of sports. His hobbies are going to the gym, martial arts and boxing.

Robert Stoner Mcnamara
20 years old from Glastone Park. Currently working as flight coordinator at Melbourne Airport. He loves body building.

Francis Olalia
21 years old from Lynbrook. He was the first one to sign up for Mister Philippines. He is running his own business thru Yor Health. He loves going to the gym and playing basketball.

The joy of winning Second Runner-Up Mutya

Kim Fyfe

Kim Fyfe, left, with the other Mutya ng Pilipinas winners

THANK YOU to all my supporters especially those who believed in me from the start. I know the Mutya Melbourne finished with some controversies but after winning Mutya Ng Pilipinas 2014 2nd-Runner Up I can say I have believed in myself from the start and continue to do so.

People may have their own opinions about me but I believe I did the best I can and continue to be the best I can be in the face of adversity. I joined the Mutya ng Pilipinas Melbourne 2014 pageant because I want to motivate myself to overcome my shyness and gain more confidence and have the courage to stand in front of a crowd as a proud Filipina.

I would highly recommend hopeful candidates to join the Mutya pageant because it will not only teach you about the culture and traditions of the Philippines but will also give you an opportunity to promote the beauty of the Philippines. It will also give you an opportunity to visit the locations of the Philippines that really show the beauty of the environment and the hospitality of the Filipino people and let you experience what the Philippines has to offer.

My greatest asset in winning the pageant was believing in myself and staying humble. Representing Australia in the Philippines pageant give me a wonderful opportunity to see some of the beautiful sites of the Philippines that I hear so often from my family. Learning how to walk like a true beauty queen and act like a true Filipina was a dream come true.

I have a true faith and belief that I represent Australia with honour and did all of you proud. I will always cherish my experiences and look forward to sharing the same with future candidates of this pageant.

My experience in running Mutya ng Pilipinas in Australia

Choy Symes

Choy Symes with Pauline Edralin, left, and Kim Fyfe (right)

AS AN amateur running the Mutya ng Pilipinas Melbourne pageant for the first time and sending candidates to the International competition was not easy and it was scary especially when you are marred with controversies but we move on and get back on track.

Sending Kim Fyfe and Pauline Edralin in the international competition, we are only half-certain that they would be chosen. When Pauline Edralin and Kim Fyfe receive special awards; Pauline Edralin as Miss Friendship and Kim Fyfe Mutya ng Biocera competing against 28 candidates from Philippines and overseas was an achievement which I am truly so proud of. Both of them qualifying to final top 10 was even a bonus and Kim Fyfe who was crowned as 2nd Runner-Up in the Mutya ng Pilipinas last August 8, 2014 in Solaire Resort and Casino was the greatest triumph for us because it proves that our judges on the coronation night last 14 June 2014 have chosen the right contender and is most deserving of a victory. I admire Kim's fighting spirit and courage to ignore all the negative comments posted on the social network against her and used it as a tool to work harder and take the crown home in Melbourne.

We don't have enough funds to hire professional trainer to prepare our candidates to the international pageant but the help and support that we get from our own little group was overwhelming and I would like to thank my team -- Fyfe Family, Edralin Family, Terry Kane, Hector Calara, Lehi Reyes, Moses Florendo, Peachy Limpin and other silent supporters. Most of all we are triumphant because of the hard work of Pauline Edralin and Kim Fyfe.

Next year will be bigger as we extend our search to interstate candidates and hopefully we can send representative not just from Melbourne but also from other states.

I would encourage prospective candidates to join the Search for Mutya ng Australia because it will give you the opportunity to gain more confidence and a life-changing experience. We will be aiming for more success in future pageants.

Miss Philippines-Australia 2014 is now on

FILIPINAS FROM different states will compete for Miss Philippines-Australia and Charity Queen Australia 2014 on 5 October in Rosehill. The pageant is one of the highlights of the Grand Philippine Fiesta Kultura Sydney, a long running and multi-award winning multicultural event that has become an institution for the Filipino community. It is under the auspices of the Philippine Australian Sports & Culture, (PASC) Inc, the convenor body of the annual Philippine Fiesta Kultura in Sydney.

Now on its 26th year, the annual beauty pageant, underscores beauty for a cause through an advocacy that supports various community organisations and charitable institutions in the Philippines and Australia. The pageant is open to all Filipino/Australian women from all over Australia who are 16-25 years of age in the year of competition.

This year's Fiesta is in celebration of the 30th Philippine Australian Sports & Culture Inc. and the 20th Grand Philippine Fiesta Kultura.

Proud to represent the Filipino community

Christine Ferrer, a candidate from Victoria together with Rebecca-lee Woods and Astrud-Anne Ryan, shares her thoughts about the pageant. Ferrer said she believes she deserves to win because she is a true Filipina at heart. "I am a proud ambassador for the brains, beauty, and talent of the Filipino community. I represented the Filipino community when I was awarded the top 5% of an Australian University. I am always proud to represent the Filipino community and even when I sing I show my talent and I greatly pride myself to be a Filipino. I have the heart and soul of a true Filipina," she told The Philippine Times.

She joined the pageant because she wants to inspire young Filipinos. "I want them to know that they can make it anywhere if they truly believe in their goals and are willing to fight for them. And most importantly, everyone should be happy in the journey they are on," said the full scholarship winner of CATC Melbourne for an Interior Design course.

What are her qualities which she think will help impress the judges? Her charming charisma as a true Filipino, she noted. "I also know how to sing which is a great Filipino talent. I'm also confident yet very humble, and I am someone who always think well of everyone. For me this pageant is truly amazing and everyone has unique qualities and being part of it is truly an honour," she said. Christine just joined FASX competition, a modelling TV Reality show to be shown soon on Channel 31.

For more information, please visit: http://missphilaust.com.au/ or its Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/missphilaust

The Visayan Association of Australia supported Glyssa Perez (third from left) by holding "A Night with Glyssa" last 22 August.

Photo by Jade Cadelina

Christine Ferrer during the Presentation of Candidates

TRIBUTE TO CONGEN GIGI KALONG

"My years of service were full of joy and challenges" -- ConGen Kalong

GIGI KALONG, Philippine Honorary Consul General of Victoria, will step down as Philippine Honorary Consul General of Victoria. She will be remembered for her unwavering support and service to the Filipino community in Victoria. A woman of few words, Gigi despise attention and instead focus on the work she needs to do.

"My years of service were full of joy and challenges. It has given me more than I can give. It has given me connection to real issues and met real friends along the way who stood by my side. We will have different Consuls but the need of the Philippine community and the Filipinos in Melbourne do not change. This is an ongoing process," Gigi told *The Philippine Times*. As the Consulate encourages Filipinos to acquire dual citizenship, the Office will consequently be busier.

Despite the countless meetings, appearances at events, and assistance she provided to the community, Gigi is not even identifying the legacy she will leave behind. Instead, she said "I will move on and close this chapter of my life. It will be the people I served, perhaps, who will remember me," she noted. After Consulate, Gigi will focus on her travel business and do more pastoral work.

Below are few of hundreds who worked closely with Gigi in her special journey:

WHAT THEY SAY...

The power of action

Raine Cabral
Volunteer, Philippine Consulate

How do you pay tribute to a person you owe almost everything to? Mere words cobbled together in paltry sentences feels quite insufficient.

It is hard to distill and capture in words not just the facts and events that encapsulates the essential truth of a person- their joy and strength, the quiet moments and unique qualities that illuminate one's soul.

Permit me then to somehow share with you the generosity of spirit and unimpeachable character of our Consul Gigi, who I consider my second mother.

mG as I fondly call her taught me the true meaning of humility and service. She is a woman of faith and substance and I count myself blessed to serve at her pleasure.

Given the thirty odd years of service to the Filipino community, the scope of her accomplishments and the esteemed regard that she so rightly enjoys, it's tempting to think of Consul Gigi, as being high up on a pedestal, detached from us mere mortals. But mG herself resists and disavows such a lifeless portrait. Instead, mG insisted on being on the forefront with us, labouring with us, standing shoulder to shoulder with us. Working to make a difference wherever she is.

It is precisely because she is so humble, not the false humility we see bandied about whereby some would claim to be simple yet you feel suffocated by the miasma of self-importance, that she is beloved as Consul. There is an open door policy at the Consulate wherein anyone and everyone can come in and speak to her. mG does not stand on ceremony, rather, anyone who seeks counsel will be seen to graciously. She is also tireless in her support to the community, attending five separate functions on the same day is the norm not the exception.

mG taught me the power of action as well as the power of ideas; the importance of reason and the need to study two sides of every situation. She shows me by example everyday how it is to live by faith. She understand more than anyone I have ever known, that it always starts with the 'self'. Action or inaction is a decision a person makes everyday. She is a do-er. She will not sit idle if there is an opportunity for her to act and help those who need her. She recognises the ties that bind the human spirit. The Filipino community all come from one flag, the Philippine flag. She has often said that whether you come from Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao, we are all Filipinos and that we achieve oneness by sharing ourselves with others and caring for those around us.

There is only one Gigi Kalong. And not a day goes by that I do not praise and thank God for her. I have known her for close to a decade and I am privileged to serve her at whatever capacity she deems fit. I learned so much from her and I expect will continue to learn more. Moments spent with her woke me up to my responsibilities to others and to myself, and it has set me on a journey to continue to make a difference in whatever way I can. And while I know I will always fall short of mG's example, she makes me want to be better every day.

Thank you mG for loving us and rest assured that the feeling is more than reciprocated. It is profoundly treasured and indelibly marked in the deepest recesses of my heart.

A caring and generous heart

George Gregorio
Publisher
Philtimes.com.au

When one is so close to someone, it's not hard to find kind words to describe her. I have known Consul Virginia 'Gigi' Kalong for many years now. As a friend, Gigi seems invisible when you're doing okay, yet, always around when you need a helping hand. She is caring and extremely generous.

As a business operator, Gigi is fair and easy to deal with. She is a forgiving person even to those who have taken advantage of her kindheartedness to the point of having to suffer financially.

Consul Virginia Kalong is not your average public servant. She is a quiet achiever. She never really understood why there is a need for courtesy or protocols that bordered on self-importance as a consequence of holding such a privileged position. She never used her position to enrich herself. On the contrary, since an honorary consul doesn't get paid, she had to spend her own money to keep the Consulate Office open to serve our many kababayans.

Consul Virginia is not perfect. I hate to spill the beans that she couldn't stand visiting loved ones in the hospital let alone attend funerals. That's why it took a lot of courage on her part when call of duty required her to look after repatriating the dead, representing the country at funeral services, and attending to kababayans requiring assistance while confined in a hospital.

Above all, Gigi is deeply religious. It is her devotion to God that gave her the strength to carry on and rise

above the challenges of running her business and serving the community while undergoing physical and emotional difficulties.

Gigi's generosity is unrivalled. It's her own way of showing love and compassion for her family, friends, colleagues, kababayans, fellow Christians and fellow human beings.

All the best my ever dearest best friend. I wish you more success in your post-consulate work.

Sharing of spiritual journey

Chito Javier
Broadcaster, Filipino Broadcasting Group

Consul Virginia Kalong has been a regular guest to the Filipino Broadcasting Group of 92.3 FM 3ZZZ since she became the Honorary Consul of Victoria.

She has used the radio to inform the Filipino Community in Victoria of the various activities and services available at the Consulate. She was keen in spreading the Catholic faith amongst the Filipinos in Melbourne by announcing the different liturgical activities happening in the community. A number of times she has shared her spiritual experiences to the listeners of our programs.

On the personal side, she has been a regular donor to our Radiothon, which aims to raise money to keep the Filipino programs on air.

Best wishes from the Filipino Broadcasting Group of 92.3 FM 3ZZZ.

Serving and sharing her blessings

Fr Joselito Asis
Chaplain to the Filipino Community

I first met Honorary Consul Virginia Kalong with a group of Filipinos at the Shrine of Ta Pinu in Bacchus Marsh one Wednesday evening during the devotional prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. My predecessor, Fr. Loi Viovicente, introduced her to me with a very short remark, "You can always rely on the support of Ate Gigi as far as the needs of the Filipino Chaplaincy are concerned." "Wow", I said to myself, "now, I know whom to approach as I embark on my mission of being the new Chaplain to the Filipino Catholics in the Archdiocese of Melbourne".

I must confess that upon knowing as early as the first quarter of this year that Ate Gigi's term as Honorary Consul of Victoria was about to end, I already had in mind how the Filipino Chaplaincy could maximise her potentials and rich experiences in serving the Filipinos through its varied pastoral works. So, immediately I asked her to head the newly organised Filipino Pastoral Support of Victoria, Inc. and commissioned her to become member of the Finance Council of the Chaplaincy. Without second thought, she accepted the said tasks wholeheartedly.

In my few months stint as Chaplain, Ate Gigi's support was indeed overwhelming. Through her persistence and good will, the replica of the Black Nazarene of Quiapo finally found a home in the city - at the Church of St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne. Her devotion to Jesus the Black Nazarene impels her to share the blessings to other devotees. Another one was during the preparation for the forthcoming visit of the Archbishop of Manila, His Eminence, Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle to Melbourne. It would not be very easy for the Chaplaincy if not for the unwavering collaboration of the Philippine Consulate under the auspices of Ate Gigi.

Ate Gigi will end her term as Honorary Consul of Victoria, but for the many Filipino Catholics in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, she will always be regarded as "Ambassador of Christ" as she continues to serve in the name of the Filipino Chaplaincy. Mabuhay ka Ate Gigi!

Real purpose and reason

Fr Loi Viovicente
Former Chaplain, Melbourne Filipino community
Now parish priest at Seaton Adelaide

Ate Gigi, as I call her, accepted this appointment as Consul General of Victoria with one purpose in mind, to serve the Filipino Community of Victoria.

I witnessed her doing the talk or 'walk the talk' from the beginning. She never wavered from her real purpose and reason as a Consul. I am very glad to be part of her selfless wholehearted service to the community.

Marami pong salamat Ate Gigi for your generosity and love-filled heart. May God continue to bless you with more blessings and good health. God bless.

Advocate for Filipino migrants

Mila Cichello
Chairperson
Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc.

It is said that character makes the man and this adage is mostly manifested when a man makes his mark on a role.

When well-loved businesswoman Gigi Kalong took on the role of Consul General for Victoria in 2010, she inherited a Filipino community in turmoil but assured the community that her role would be one of service, The last four years showed that Consul General Kalong delivered service, and more.

Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc (BACNI) pays tribute to Consul General Kalong for her strong encouragement and support to BACNI Member Organisations' community programs and events held in the City of Melbourne, Sunshine, Clarinda, Dandenong and Greater Geelong. All the BACNI members and affiliates sincerely thank ConGen Kalong for her messages, attendance and sponsorship on our community activities and events every year.

ConGen Kalong was an outstanding advocate for Filipino migrants in multicultural Australia. She displayed excellent knowledge of Philippine history, people and culture and we were proud to witness the respect accorded to her by parliamentarians, corporate sponsors, Council Lord Mayors and other dignitaries at cultural events held at Melbourne Town Hall and Federation Square.

The Philippine Consulate staff were visible supporters of positive endeavours that advanced the cause of Filipinos in Australia and we are grateful that when a BACNI joint project with the government needed endorsement, ConGen Kalong was prompt with a generous letter of support or a suggestion of potential sponsor for projects such as youth hip-hop face off, Multicultural Harmony Day events, Easter Sports Fest, traditional Pasko sa Nayon Concerts and Filo-Australian-Filo art partnerships. There were many times when government agencies and kababayans contacted BACNI office for help. It was reassuring to refer them to ConGen Kalong for her discretion and compassionate pastoral care. ConGen Kalong's term was strongly characterised by the bayanihan spirit. She established a professional honorary Consular office that the community could be proud of. She volunteered her time 24/7 to assist other kababayans in trouble, often sacrificing her own family time. She shared her personal resources generously without seeking any benefit in return.

We at BACNI, thank ConGen Kalong for her selfless leadership, for bringing character and positive qualities to the ConGen role. Because of this, the Filipino community is deeply grateful to her for restoring pride and respect to the Office of Consul General. Mabuhay and God bless, ConGen Gigi!

True leadership

Alex Sy
Founding President
Advisor
Cebuano Association of Australia

I am witness to the wonderful work that Gigi has made to the Philippine Consulate in Victoria and most importantly to the Filipino community in Victoria.

In her term of 4 years, which was extended by another 12 months, Gigi has represented the Consulate Office with such dignity, respect and trust, and continually promote the wonderful Filipino culture to the wider Australian Community.

While the position is voluntary, she has put the welfare of the Filipino people in Victoria first and above of all other things, which I truly admire.

I would like to thank Gigi for all the wonderful work that she has done for the community, and the respect she has gained from other ethnic and multicultural groups.

Gigi showed true leadership in times of calamity and need for the Filipino community. She was instrumental in bringing the community together during the recent natural disasters in the Philippines, being Typhoon Sendong and Typhoon Yolanda.

She has worked tirelessly among the many Filipino community groups in Victoria, and continually aspire unity and solidarity among the Filipinos.

The Cebuano Association was honoured to have worked closely with Gigi since the formation of the Association in 2012, especially with the recent calamity in Central Visayas during the Typhoon Yolanda.

The Philippine Consulate Office and the Cebuano Association worked closely to ensure relief goods were coordinated and reached the typhoon victims directly.

Gigi will surely be missed in her role as the Consul General but I'm certain her other work within the Filipino community will continue.

Thank you Gigi. God Bless.

Like a Melbourne weather

Emmy Du-Lake
Volunteer
Philippine Consulate

As I call her Ms CK or Madame K, she is like Melbourne weather. Behind her "unpredictable" heavy thunderstorm of courage and toughness are her warm gentle winds of generosity, kind-heartedness and trustworthiness.

Loving life

Maina Walkley
Former Honorary Consul
Philippine Consulate

Gigi Kalong is a person of immense generosity to a fault. Ask anyone of what they will remember Gigi for and the answer would be that – her generosity.

She is a person who loves life and equally lives life to the full. She is prepared to try anything and would not hesitate to take on any task or anyone to achieve what she sets her eyes on – a quality that sits well in her position as Honorary Consul General.

I join my voice with the rest of the Filipino community in acknowledging and thanking Gigi Kalong for her selfless services before and during her tenure as Honorary Consul General together with our best wishes for her future endeavours.

Migration Mentor

FELIX CARAO

Temporary Work (Skilled) Visa Subclass 457

DO YOU wish to work in Australia and bring your family to work or study as well? The temporary Work (Skilled) Visa subclass 457 will allow you to do this. On top of this, you can also travel in and out of Australia as often as you want.

What are the steps to obtain this type of visa?

First, an employer must be approved to sponsor you as an overseas worker. This can only be done when the employer cannot find an Australian citizen or permanent resident to do the skilled work.

Second, a position must be approved for the sponsored worker whose occupation is listed in the current Consolidated Skilled Occupations List (CSOL). You must have the required skills to perform the duties of a position nominated by an approved employer. This is called a Nomination Application.

Third, a 457 visa must be approved, and can be valid for up to four years. You can be in or outside Australia when your application is lodged.

What requirements should you submit with your application?

Proof of Identity. You should provide sufficient evidence to establish your identity, which may include:

- Bio-data page of passport
- NSO Birth Certificate
- Résumé

English Language Ability. You must demonstrate that your level of English proficiency is equivalent to an IELTS test score of at least 5 in each of the four test components of speaking, reading, writing, and listening.

You may be exempted from taking the IELTS if you have completed at least five consecutive years of full-time study in a secondary and/or higher educational institution where the instruction was delivered in English. Full-time study means the standard number of contact hours that a student would undertake in the relevant country.

If you wish to be exempted from the English Language requirement, you should present the following:

- Vocational Certification
- Vocational Transcripts of Record (TOR)
- Vocational English Language Certification
- Secondary Diploma
- Secondary Permanent Record - Form 137-A
- Secondary English Language Certification

Employment Certificates. You must be able to submit proof of your past employment and employment references. Employment references must include the name, title and contact details of the referee. Employment details in the reference should contain details of your position and dates of service. References should cover a period adequate to show relevant skill level.

Proof of Skills. You must provide proof that you possess the skills to perform the duties of a position nominated by an approved employer by submitting the following:

- Certificates of Training
- Skills Assessment Result - if required

What facts should you know about family members of 457 visa holders?

Family members of 457 visa holders include a spouse or de facto partner of the family head and a dependent child of the family head or dependent child of the spouse or de facto partner of the family head. A dependent child must not have turned 21 years of age and must not be married or in a de facto relationship.

Family members can be in different places from each other at the time of application and visa grant, provided each person meets the relevant requirements for the grant of the visa.

The 457 visas granted to family members will have the same period of validity as that granted to the 457 primary visa holder. However, those who apply for their visas after the 457 primary applicant has been granted a visa will be granted a period of stay not exceeding that of the 457 primary visa holder. Visas granted to family members who will turn 21 years old will be terminated on their 21st birthday even if they are still within the approved visa period granted to the 457 primary visa holder.

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457 KA BA KABAYAN?
Hanap mo ba PR?
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Gusto mong ma-PR pero AYAW NG SPONSOR MO?
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FILCCA to hold confab

Gears up Pinoys to face future together

Continued from page 1

pino Community: Are we ready?", and "Think Tank: Emerging Challenges".

Facing the future together

This year's theme will focus on "Facing the Future Together", a fitting theme after the world's strongest Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November 2013. FILCCA's objective is to help the worst affected families and coordinate the national efforts to rebuild the country by maximising the efficiency of funds raised and goods shipped.

Garcia is inviting Filipinos Australia-wide to participate in the conference. She said Filipinos are very articulate and proactive in the mainstream community. "Through the conference, we can become one and we can have the opportunity to discuss solutions and resolutions to these issues, which we can bring forth to the attention of the appropriate stakeholders," added Garcia.

Be active in state councils

Garcia advised Filipino-Australian to be more active and proactive in their respective state councils. For example FILCCA invites Filos to take an active role in its disaster projects. "We should also present a united front to government here and in the Philippines in major issues that affect Filipinos in Australia," she said. Under her) wing, FILCCA's recent projects were assistance to the victims of the Bohol earthquake and Yolanda typhoon; advocacy for subclass 457 visa holders, and support and drive for justice and opening of cold cases.

Garcia said on the first day of the conference, there will be a Leader's forum where leaders of the community can discuss their respective state's issues. The second day, she said, is the conference proper where plenary speakers will talk. There will also be an annual general meeting where an election of officers will be held. The last day will be the gala night showcasing performances of talents from different states. The highlight of the night will be the awarding of achievers. On the last day, there will be a Mass and closing of conference at the Parramatta picnic ground where delegates will have their lunch.

Current FILCCA Officers are: President- Aida Garcia (SA), Vice President (External Affairs)- Perlita Swinbank (ACT), VP (Internal Affairs)- Mena Edmonstone (Qld), VP (Youth Affairs)- Carmelita Baltazar (WA), Treasurer - Serna Ladia (NSW), PRO - Vicki Wotherspoon (WA), Global Commissioner- Emma de Vera (NSW), and Public Officer – Elizabeth Garrett (ACT).

Aida Garcia

Mobile Overseas Voters' Registration

DURING THE conference, FILCCA and the state host, the Philippine Community Council of New South Wales, in cooperation with the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney will be conducting a mobile Overseas Voters' Registration on October 24, 2014 Friday from 1:30-5:00pm and October 25, 2014 Saturday from 5:00-7:00pm for those eligible to participate in the Philippine national elections on May 9, 2016 . Eligible to register are Filipino citizens, including Filipino-Australians who are dual citizens, at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, and not otherwise disqualified.

Potential voters should bring:

* photocopy of valid Philippine Passport (bring the original as well for sighting)
* For dual citizens: photocopy of the Order of Approval to retain/reacquire Filipino citizenship or Oath of Allegiance or Identification Certificate.

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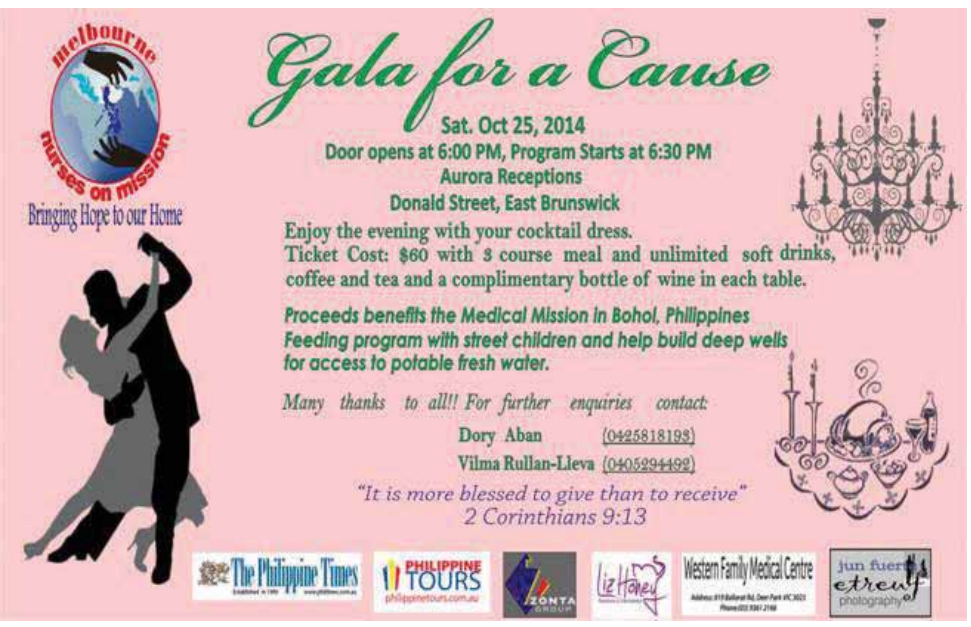

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ACME's second year and awarding night

THE AUSTRALIAN Council of Multicultural Entrepreneurs, Incorporated (ACME) held its second anniversary last 28 August 2014 at the Bayview on the Park, Melbourne. The event was attended by business owners with special guests, Geoff Browne and Mark Schramm from the Office of Victorian Small Business Commission.

In his welcome remark and Council Report, ACME Chairman and President of the Executive Committee, Fred Jover reported that at 30 June 2014, the council's finance is in the black and thanked the group's successful application for community grant from Australia Post, to set up a web-based directory of small businesses owned and operated not only by ACME members, but anyone from various multicultural communities of Victoria. The directory has been set up and currently data uploading is work-in-process. This is also linked to ACME's website, www.acmei.org.

ACME'S second year anniversary was doubly significant due to the inaugural launch of the 2014 Awards recognising member entrepreneurs for their outstanding performance in their respective area of commerce, their benefit and service to the community, and their commitment and support as ACME members. The winners of the 2014 ACME Awards were: Virginia Kalong, Entrepreneur of the Year; Migrant Hub c/o Walter Villagonzalo, Social Enterprise of the Year; Liz Honey Productions, Community Entertainment and Event Enterprise; Kabayan Restaurant and Asian Grocery c/o Jocy and Ding Gonzales, Community Restaurant and Grocery of the Year and Tablea Café c/o Leonardo Geronimo, Small Entertainment and Business Venue and Café of the Year.

Two new members of ACME, Nena Parinas, an Accountant and Tax agent, served as emcee while Beth Sockett was the night's host.

For further details on ACME membership and events, please visit www.acmei.org, email: acme.inc2012@gmail.com or call/text Fred Jover on 0403944479.

ACME Chairperson Fred Jover awards plaque to Gigi Kalong who was not able to attend the anniversary and awarding night.

First formal general meeting at E'Latte Greek Restaurant in Brunswick

Officers and members of ACME during the second anniversary and awarding of winners.

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GLIT&GLAM

Silliman Alumni Melbourne holds Founders' Day

Vince F

The Silliman University Alumni Association Melbourne Chapter, Inc. (SUAAMCI) celebrated the 113th Founders' Day of its Alma Mater, Silliman University on 23 August 2014 with an evening of dinner and dance held at True Blue Restaurant in Tullamarine. Silliman University, one of Philippines' leading learning institutions, prides itself of strong loyalty from its alumni, students and friends. Over 100 alumni, friends and family gathered on this special event for fellowship, fun, and to raise funds for social projects.

The "Silliman Spirit" was rekindled as the group relished the evening sharing stories of campus life and anecdotes of their Silliman experience over a sumptuous dinner. Many irresistibly trooped to the dance floor to swing to the beat of predominantly Latino music.

On the night, SUAAMCI gave awards and recognition to members for their contribution to the Association. Ma. Flora Nazario Pineda received her award as the "Oldest Sillimanian Living in Melbourne," at a strong age of 92. Dr. Benjamin Tobias was recognised in absentia for his "invaluable service and contribution to SUAAMCI", being the Association's founding President. Richard Bonifacio also received the top prize for winning the official SUAAMCI logo. The evening was punctuated by the inaugural launching of SUAAMCI website and newsletter.

There were treats as raffle prizes complimented the members showcasing of talents through songs, dances and video presentations. Cecille Dizon, incumbent President, lauded the members and officers for their hard work and commitment and contribution to the success of the event.

The Chairman of the Board, Alberto Nuique, noted the occasion as also SUAAMCI's 27th anniversary celebration having been founded on 6 December 1987. Through the years, the association remains committed to its objectives of providing solid support to its constituents by enhancing unity and camaraderie. With the continued influx of Sillimanians in Melbourne, the World's Most Liveable City, SUAAMCI endeavours to be the vibrant group where members find genuine friendship.

For more information about SUAAMCI, contact: membership@sillimanmelbourne.org or visit its website www.sillimanmelbourne.org . (Photo by Dom Demandante)

Perla Luetic wins return airfare.

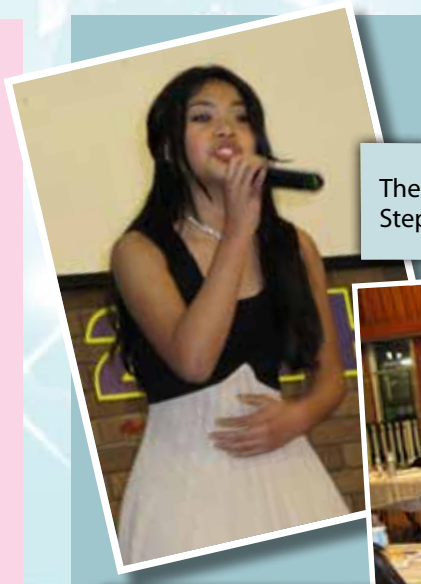
Photos by Jen Azzopardi

Being hot for a cause

Yo Hot Mommas was able to raise $1505.00 last 9 August, 2014. Around 200 guests attended the fundraising event. The National Breast Cancer Foundation will be the beneficiary.

"We are very grateful to our generous supporters and donors and to our major sponsor, the Philippine Tours in West Brunswick who kindly donated a return ticket to Manila Philippines as one of our major prizes for the raffle," said Liz Honey. The lucky winner was Mrs Perla Luetic of Footscray Victoria.

Pyjamas take on a new meaning



The ever beautiful Stephanie Bernando

Left to right, back row- Vice-President Jnr APCO Inc. Cora Perez, APCO Inc President Ruben Amores posing with the honourees, Mrs Visayas-Australia Charity Queen Brenda De La Sala,Vivian Brewington, Annie Marquez, and seated in front, Larry Perez.

Being one

What a way to play bingo when friends wear onesies in different shapes and colours. Held last 16 August, the special night was hosted by Liza and Edwin Capistrano. The night was full of fun, food and laughter! (Photo by Thata and Shazz of Galefuente Photography)

Randy Petalcorin wins Light Flyweight world title

NEW WBA World light flyweight boxer Randy Petalcorin knocked out Panama Walter Tello in Shanghai recently in front of 8,000 people to win the Light Flyweight world title by 7th KO. Randy Petalcorin destroyed Panama Walter Tello dropping him twice in the 7th round with a left uppercut followed by a right hook. Tello's body landed one and his legs the other way. He was flattened," said Peter Maniatis, Randy's Australian Manager/Promoter.

"Manny Pacquiao was ringside for the Top Rank promoted card along with Freddie Roach and Bob Arum and everyone agreed in the arena a new star is born for world boxing with 22 year old Randy Petalcorin," added Peter.

Randy's next WBA world title defence could be on the Manny Pacquiao undercard in Macau in 23 November or a Zou Shimming card in Macau in February. "It's up in the air at the moment but Randy pulled up very well after his title win," said Peter.

Randy has become a Filipino boxing sensation in Australia after winning several matches in Australia. Filipino-Australians are supporting him whenever he has fights in Australia.

Randy Petalcorin with his Manager, Peter Maniatis.

Filipino boxing legend Manny Pacquiao with Peter Maniatis.

ASEAN Games Australia 2014 to be held

MORE THAN 400 participants and 150 volunteers will take part in ASEAN Games Australia 2014 from 12-14 September 2014 at the Albert Park, Melbourne, Victoria. It will feature some sports such as badminton, basketball, futsal, netball, squash, table tennis, tennis, ultimate frisbee and volleyball. ASEAN Games Australia is an initiative by the Malaysian Students' Council of Australia, Victoria Chapter, with the support of other ASEAN-based student councils. It is also proudly supported by the Council of International Students Australia, a new supporting partner this year.

ASEAN-based student councils include Malaysian Students' Council of Australia, Victoria (MASCA), Singaporeans of Victoria, Melbourne Overseas Vietnamese Student Association, Thai Students Association of Victoria, Perhimpunan Pelajar Indonesia Australia, Victoria and Filipino-Australian Student Council of Victoria.

The tagline for ASEAN Games Australia 2014 is "Embrace Diversity, Celebrate Victory" announced by the Project Director, Sheh Tyne Yeo during the official launch of the sports registration on 30 July 2014. "We encourage people from ASEAN member states to gather together and participate in this sports event to bring out their passion in sports together as one. Though we may come from different countries, we still share the same drive to excel in the sports we are passionate about," explained by Sheh Tyne Yeo, who is also the MSports Director of MASCA Victoria.

For more information, please contact, Sheh Tyne Yeo, Project Director of ASEAN Games Australia 2014. Email projectdirector@aseangamesaustralia.com.au or call 614 51501936.

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Andrea Wheatley warming up in Cebu.

World-class Filipino stick-fighter wins gold

FORMER THREE-TIME Filipino Stick-fighting World Champion and Osteopath Andrea Wheatley from Melbourne has overcome serious illness that left her paralysed in one leg to win gold at this year's World Championships in Cebu City, Philippines.

Andrea won gold in the ladies single stickfighting championship, bronze in the double stick fighting championship and silver in Kuluta – a variation of the martial art where minimal armour is worn and a slightly padded stick is used.

The 6th degree black belt (Master Rank) in Cacoy Doce Pares Eskrima and Eskrido has fought hard through 35 months of rehabilitation and extensive training in preparation for the August event in a full-contact sport that is not for the faint-hearted.

"In June 2011 I suffered a serious illness and subsequently had a form of paralysis due to damage to the 3 most important nerves to my leg. I had both motor and sensory loss in mixed regions (sciatic, femoral and obturator nerve distributions)," Andrea said.

"For almost 2 years I had numbness on the sole of my foot. As an osteopath I knew that in order to regain function of my leg, it was essential that I could feel the ground with the sole of my foot.

Andrea works full-time as an osteopath and is the head instructor of the Filipino Stick-Fighting Martial Arts at the Cacoy Doce Pares Melbourne studio in Alphington, Melbourne. Training is focused on defending, disarming and disabling an opponent and developing sensitivity in the hands and automatic reflexes to help protect a person in a self-defense situation.

(Image by Robert Balfour)

Manny Asuncion's anthology of plays launched

Photos by Edwin Tuazon

Publisher John Alayon holds the book before handing it over to Manny Asuncion.

Manny with sisters, Tessie Asuncion, Yoly Tuazon and Fely Joyce.

Rolly Limun provides special song number.

MANNY G. ASUNCION'S long-time dream to publish his collection of plays came into fruition last 30 August 2014 at 501 Reception Footscray. "Seasons: An Anthology of Filipino Australian Plays Down Under" is a compilation of seven of the best plays he wrote and directed in Melbourne such as Winter's Chill, Autumn Sonata, Ikalawang Tag-Sibol ni Mang Florante and Summer Butterflies.

The intimate celebration gathered together Asuncion's three sisters, Fely, Tessie and Yolly and their families who flew all the way from South Australia and his friends and co-workers such as Melba Marginson, Marina Ruivivar, Norma Serrano spoke highly of Asuncion and paid tribute to his creative life being a writer, playwright, stage director, interpreter, translator and a community worker for more than 30 years. The book launch also coincided with his 70th birthday celebration.

During the launch, incoming Philippine Honorary Consul Felix Pintado delivered the opening speech. Three composers, Leonie Wenden, Raul Roxas and Roly Limun who all wrote the scores to some of Asuncion's lyrics in the plays sang. Anthony Crisostomo also performed a special number.

Some of Asuncion's colleagues and friends, Melba Marginson, Marisa Vedar, Norma Serrano, Perla Luetic delivered messages.

After his book launch, Asuncion plans to revive DBMI and work on compiling his other writings such as poems, essays and short stories.

The 374-page book was published by John Alayon, Publisher of Pasa Pinoy.

To read Adrian Prophet's introduction to the book, please visit: http://philtimes.com.au/manny-g-asuncions-seasons-an-anthology-of-filipino-australian-plays-down-under/

To read Norma Serrano's tribute to Asuncion, please read: http://philtimes.com.au/something-about-manny/

To view more photos, please go to: https://www.facebook.com/philtimes

Hoops, anyone?

Ernesto Cartas

WITHOUT A doubt, it can be said that basketball runs deep in the roots of Filipino culture. There's nothing like being surrounded by family and friends with the same passion and excitement for the game. The 10th of August marked the finale of the very first "West Melbourne Suburbs Winter Basketball League" held at the Victoria University gym (St Albans Campus). The tournament was comprised of four teams: Western Aces, Pistos, Warriors and UICC, with team members ranging from ages as young as 13 years to those 40 years of age. It was a great time for the players and fans to mingle with other Filipino-Australians in an environment that fosters friendship, laughter and good camaraderie.

The tournament began on 20 July 2014 and concluded on 10 August. The short but sweet season was full of exciting and nail-biting moments, with the fans enthusiastically cheering for their respective teams. Pistos took home the championship title; Western Aces came in as First Runner Runner-Up; Warriors was declared Second Runner-Up and UICC as Third Runner-Up. Medals and trophies were awarded by Dr Leonida Cartas to the teams. Special individual awards were given to the players with distinct talents and sportsmanship. The following awards were received: Most Valuable Tournament Player, Ricardo Rubio of the Pistos; Best Centre, Roman Cruz; Best Guards, J Lance and Shan Pineda; Best Forwards, Alan De Guzman and Ricardo Rubio.

The event was sponsored by local businesses owned and operated by Filipino-Australians in the western suburbs of Melbourne. The West Melbourne Basketball League is looking forward to future tournaments and encourages more teams to join and to promote unity among the Filipino and Australian community.

For further information, please contact Melvin Mata on 0416 568 217.

Atty Aida Garcia named one of 100 Most Influential Filipina Women

Atty Aida Garcia, Lawyer and Registered Migration Agent, will be awarded as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award by the Filipina Women's Network (FWN). The gala awards celebratory dinner and ceremony will be held on 7 October 2014 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Philippines as part of the 11th Filipina Leadership Global Summit.

In a statement, Garcia said she is truly honored to be inducted into the premiere group of FWN's Global100 Awardees and to accept FWN's 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World Award for her professional work and civic engagement in the Filipino community. "The award recognises my deep passion and commitment to build and maintain, adjust, repair, and re-align what is envisaged as broken organisations into a better and stronger Filipino communities in diaspora," said the current President of the Filipino Community Council of Australia (FILCCA), the peak umbrella body of all Filipino organisations in Australia.

"I am proud to be honored by an organisation so relentlessly dedicated to such integral work for our community. I will be one of 100 awardees worldwide who have been asked to FEMtor a protégée so we can double the number of Filipina global leaders. With FWN's leadership, I am hoping my work will encourage a young Filipina to aspire. I intend to contribute my own talents in building the future of our community, femtor next generation leaders, and partner in developing strategies on how to include Filipina voices in global policy and decisions being made at corporate tables," she added.

To read full version of the article, please visit: http://philtimes.com.au/atty-aida-garcia-named-one-of-100-most-influential-filipina-women/

Atty Aida Garcia (second from right) with FILCCA officers

Atty Aida Garcia

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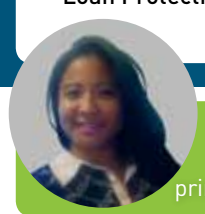

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The Inner Game

THAD MANGALINO

Protect your dream

ONE OF the keys to a successful life is to have a goal/dream to strive for. You need something that gets you fired up and looking forward towards a better tomorrow. Yes, many of you have been reading for at least the last few months a recurring theme. That dreams need to be claimed, developed and to be protected from what others call "dream-stealers"—these are the people who get threatened about your own ambition and self drive that they allow their own lack of self worth, and low self esteem to manifest. These dream-stealers are the people who constantly doubt your capabilities and secretly hope you fail. These types of people are everywhere; they are disguised as well meaning friends, colleagues and relatives while some unlucky few end up marrying them.

In my own experience, the best way to handle dream stealers is to block them out of your life. Just like on Facebook, limit their profile or better yet unfriend them in the cyber world as well as the real world. Remember that your goals are the most important things to you; the person that will be impacted massively is you and no one else. If you live a life worrying about what others say about you and choose to dance to the beat of their mediocrity, you lower your own standards and deprive yourself of your own rewards by living up to someone else's low standards. If you allow that to happen then you have no one else to blame but yourself.

Remember that to make an omelette, you have to crack some eggs. For you to achieve your dreams you may face challenges and opposition on your journey, that is a given. The good news is you are still in control. You have the power to create and force your ideal outcome. Dream stealers in your life can be likened to background noise and it's up to you to turn down the volume, mute the sound or turn them off completely. Protect your dreams and goals, grind hard and grind daily to achieve them. Do not tell the world what you want to do. Show the world.

Until next time. Stay focused.

For comments or feedback, email thad@firmfocuspt.com

RADIANT 2014 - Honouring and inspiring women

Ramil Ventus

THE WOMEN of Connect City Church (CCC), collectively known as Fascinating Women, will hold its annual RADIANT Women's Conference through a formal dinner on 19 September 2014, 6pm at the Melrose Melbourne Conference and Convention Centre in Tullamarine. This year's theme is "Strength in Wisdom", a quality that makes every woman shine and stand out through a period of experience and continuous learning.

This year also marks a major milestone as RADIANT enters its 12th year in its successful journey.

Started as a formal girls' night out back in 2002, RADIANT has come a long way in shaping women's inner beauty and insight through a series of gatherings, events, and community outreach activities. Originally, the women of the church, led by Pastor Maria Teresa Abadilla, held their first assembly with the purpose of giving women a break and time to mingle with each other by organising a small formal dinner that included a presentation of the Word of God. From that night sprung many other activities, including the inception of Be AGLOW (Be After God's Loading of Wonders), Connect City Church's (CCC) community outreach arm, and Frontline Foundation, a non-profit international aid organisation founded by Abadilla, with the help of the women of RADIANT and Connect City Church.

In every conference, RADIANT aims to honour and inspire the women so that they can make a difference in the lives of the people around them. It will be a night filled with fun, friendship, food, activities, and encouragement through inspirational teachings of the Word of God. This year's guest speaker will be the head of Connect City Church Philippines Senior Pastor Raquel Sto Domingo, an inspirational presenter, accomplished musician, esteemed lecturer of the Scripture, and a great woman of God.

"This event is not just about us women. We are blessed to be a blessing to others – our husbands, our children, our parents and our friends. Therefore, we give everyone an opportunity to be a blessing to everyone around them. And we do this through RADIANT's series of missions," elaborated Abadilla.

The main recipient of the 2014 RADIANT Annual Women's Dinner is Frontline Foundation.

If you want to be part of this wonderful event, please contact Nida Tablizo at 0431 304 112 or Faye Samson at 0433 376 765. You may also visit www.connecticitychurch.org or www.frontlinefoundation.org.au.

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Hire one, get another worker free

A FILIPINO couple employed by a motel chain in country Victoria approached Migrante Australia for help after their employment was unexpectedly terminated in July while they were overseas.

Myrna and Rene (not their real names), hired under the S457 visa scheme in early 2013 as a couple 'Resident Managers, both worked an average of fourteen hours a day over six days, and sometimes seven days a week. Myrna earned only the basic ordinary wage for 40 hours a week and Rene had no pay at all.

As Rene did not receive any salary, both had to share the wage that Myrna received from the company, which also caused financial and personal strain in their relationship. Rene recounted his experience: 'Our financial situation in Australia brought chaos to our relationship; only she is receiving salary despite the two of us working long hours daily. I have to solicit from her everything I wanted to send to my children because our employer is not giving me my own salary.'

Rene approached their employer to ask for his own wage. His employer said that if he wants his own pay, it has to be deducted from Myrna's pay to which Rene did not agree. Rene planned to leave the hotel and look for other employment. To appease Myrna and Rene's frustration, their employer gave them a leave of absence which allowed them to have a holiday in the Philippines.

While Myrna and Rene were in the Philippines, Myrna received an email from their employer terminating their employment.

According to Myrna and Rene, there are other couples hired by this motel company that apparently have the same arrangements as they did. This company may be earning more by exploiting and abusing their workers.

Migrante Australia has dealt with various forms of abuses by employers of workers especially temporary visa holders. This is the first time that Migrante has come across this kind of abuse - enslaving workers with no compensation.

When asked, why they remained in the employer company for almost seventeen months, Myrna and Rene replied that during their first months they were paying off their debts so they needed to stay. They were also hoping that by bearing their difficult situation, their employer will eventually sponsor them to become permanent residents.

Migrante is currently assisting the couple in their needs. Migrante is also helping Myrna and Rene claim remuneration for their unpaid hours, benefits and entitlements denied by the employer and seek justice for being unjustly terminated.

CREATING A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY NATION
SEPTEMBER DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH 2014

TALKING ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S ACROSS AUSTRALIA
FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU

COMMUNITY EVENT

'In The Neighbourhood'
Friends Matter

Australian Filipino Community Services, in partnership with Alzheimer's Australia Vic and Filipino, Vietnamese and Karen communities in Baptist Churches invite you to celebrate friendship with them as they talk about brain health with a presentation of the **Your Brain Matters** program.

Diverse members of the community are welcome

FREE multicultural lunch provided

Interpreters available upon request.

WEDNESDAY
24 SEPTEMBER 2014

Hope of Life Community Church
8 Watt Street
(Cnr Corio Street)
Sunshine VIC

TIME: 11:00am

FREE

RSVP
WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

For enquiries or to RSVP call
Australian Filipino Community (03) 9701 3421
Email info@afcs.org.au

SPECTRUM · hope of life community church

GO TO FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU/VIC FOR MORE DETAILS
1800 100 500 VIA AN INTERPRETER 131 450
The National Dementia Helpline and Dementia Awareness Month are Australian Government initiatives

CREATING A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY NATION
SEPTEMBER DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH 2014

TALKING ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S ACROSS AUSTRALIA
FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU

COMMUNITY EVENT

'Amigos para Siempre'
Friends for Life!

Australian Filipino Community Services in partnership with Alzheimer's Australia Vic invite you to a wonderful opportunity for Spanish-speaking seniors, Filipinos and Australians to gather to celebrate great memories of friendship and discuss brain health.

FREE tapas and empanada!

Be sure to come along and join us for a great day.

Interpreters will be provided upon request.

WEDNESDAY
17 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Dove Seniors Wellbeing Centre
78 Power Street, Doveton VIC

TIME: 11:00am

FREE

RSVP
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:
For enquiries or to RSVP call
Australian Filipino Community Services
(03) 9701 3421
Email info@afcs.org.au

Supported by Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre, Ventana Hispana, Monash Health and the Alfred Hospital

Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre Celebrating 33 Years of Service

GO TO FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU/VIC FOR MORE DETAILS
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CREATING A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY NATION
SEPTEMBER DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH 2014

TALKING ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S ACROSS AUSTRALIA
FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU

COMMUNITY EVENT

Dementia and Elder Abuse
Evening Forum

The **Australian Filipino Community Services** presents **Dementia and Elder Abuse** forum to showcase the work they have achieved in partnership with **Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria and Seniors Rights.** The forum will address the need to work systematically with General Practitioners and health professionals to close the gap in information provision and referrals to services.

Guests will have the opportunity to hear a special presentation from the representative of the **Dementia Society of the Philippines** along with **Alzheimer's Australia Vic** who will present Memory Lane CAFE, an example of social support for Filipinos living with dementia.

The focus of the forum will be on perceptions of dementia in the Filipino community, barriers to early diagnosis, referral pathways to dementia and seniors advocacy services and support.

We will formally welcome members of the **Dementia Society of the Philippines** and forge further collaboration to support Filipinos ageing in a foreign land.

MONDAY
22 SEPTEMBER 2014
Cuba Lounge, Park Hyatt

1 Parliament Pl
East Melbourne VIC 3002

TIME: 5:00pm - 6:30pm
COST: $85.00 pp

Forum followed by dinner and a presentation by **Alzheimer's Australia Vic** and the **Dementia Society of the Philippines.**

RSVP ESSENTIAL BY
MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

LIMITED PLACE AVAILABLE

For enquiries or to RSVP call
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(03) 9701 3421

Email info@afcs.org.au

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CREATING A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY NATION
SEPTEMBER DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH 2014

TALKING ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S ACROSS AUSTRALIA
FIGHTDEMENTIA.ORG.AU

VICTORIAN CALENDAR

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dementia-friendly concepts and communities
Presented by Steve Milton

Alzheimer's Australia has a vision to develop dementia-friendly communities and organisations in Australia to reduce the stigma and social isolation associated with a diagnosis of dementia. The essence of dementia-friendly communities is to engage people with dementia in everyday life. People with disabilities have insisted on societies being inclusive and so should people with dementia.

Steve Milton is one of three directors of *Innovations in Dementia*, a not-for-profit community interest company in the UK. *Innovations in Dementia* work with people with dementia, partner organisations and professionals to develop and test projects that enhance the lives of people with dementia.

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER
Melbourne City Conference Centre
333 Swanston Street, Melbourne
10:00am Registration | 10:30am – 12noon Lecture

Cost
Free for members
$15 for non-members
incl BONUS membership until June 30, 2015

FREE
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(valued at $19.95rrp)

Bookings close Friday 12 September
Register online: https://publiclecture.eventarc.com/24975
Contact email: dementiaawareness.vic@alzheimers.org.au

This event and Dementia Awareness Month are supported by the Australian Government

SEPTEMBER DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH
METROPOLITAN ACTIVITIES

02 Leadership in Quality Dementia Care Support
EAST MELBOURNE 9.30am - 4pm
Hilton On The Park, 192 Wellington Parade
Keynote speaker: Dr Adam Gazzaley MD,PhD
Cost: Full $195/ Members $186 (includes morning tea & lunch)
Bookings: *https://register.eventarc.com/22278*

05 Dementia Information Event
HEIDELBERG 9am - 3.30pm
Warringal Shopping Centre, 56 Burgundy Street
Dementia information stall providing information about community supports and other resources about dementia.
Contact: Vincent.Poisson@alzheimers.org.au | 0427 791 863

05 24hr Ultimate Treadmill Challenge
PARK ORCHARDS 12noon 5 Sept - 12noon 6 Sept
Fitness Energy, Shops 1&2, Hopetoun Road
A community fundraising event.
Contact: Fitness Energy (03) 9876 6800
info@ultimatetreamillchallenge.com

12 Information about dementia
IVANHOE 11am - 12pm
Mount's Pharmacy, 135 Upper Heidelberg Road
An information session which aims to educate and develop an understanding of dementia.
Contact: Mount's Pharmacy (03) 9497 4391

17 "Amigos para Siempre" Friends for Life
DOVETON 10.30am - 2.30pm Light refreshments.
Dove Hall, 78 Power Road (cnr Photinia Street)
Spanish-speaking, Filipinos and Australians celebrate great memories of friendship. *Interpreters available on request.*
RSVP/Enquiries: Australian Filipino Community Services
Norminda (03) 9701 3421 | info@afcs.org.au

17 SILENT MEMORIES Stories of Migrants
FOOTSCRAY 11am - 3pm
Footscray Community Arts Centre,
Silent Memories is an ongoing project of still images and video interviews about the lives of migrants living with dementia.
Online bookings: https://register.eventarc.com/24910
Enquiries: Daniela Rodriguez 0432 589 558
danni.rodriguez@gmail.com

18 PUBLIC LECTURE
Dementia-friendly concepts and communities
See details above

19 Flinders Street Station with NOVA FM
MELBOURNE 8am - 5pm
Flinders Street Station, Cnr Swanston and Flinders Sts
Come and join us as we raise awareness of dementia.
Prizes, giveaways, tips on reducing your risk of dementia.

21 World Alzheimer's Day

24 In the Neighbourhood Friends Matter
SUNSHINE 10.30am - 2pm
Hope of Life Community Church, 8 Watt St (Cnr Corio St),
Vietnamese and Filipino. Community storytelling.
Free multicultural lunch provided.
Interpreters available on request.
RSVP/Enquiries: Australian Filipino Community Services
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Mobile **0413 577 786**
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Own access to MRT station/MRT ride to nearby major malls. $50 per night. Check in Time: 2:00PM / Check out Time: 12 NN.

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Mobile **0433 854 650**
E: gemma@myjobisyouraccounts.com.au
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Phone **(03) 9361 2401**
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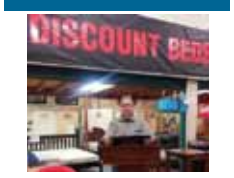

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Mobile
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Jerry **0427 819 161**
Lydia **0424 361 948**
The Association continues to grow since 2001. Main projects: Quest for Miss Austral-asia and the Filipino Fiesta in Gippsland
Sponsors: La Trobe City Council, Multi-cultural Affairs and Citizenship, Western Union, Western Travel and J & J Express.

CIRCULO CAPIZENO OF MELBOURNE
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Mobile **0413 844 146**
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EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND FOR PHILIPPINES
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0411 145 776
Michael Wright, Secretary,
0418 543 737
Calendar of Events and Disaster Preparedness
Annual Fundraising Event, Month of April

FILIPINO AUSTRALIAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF GEELONG INC.
Contact: Barry Buckle, President
D.W. Hope Centre, The Boulevard, Norlane, VIC 3214
Phone **(03) 5257 1921**
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FILIPINO AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION OF QLD
Contact: Mauro Somodio
PO Box 2424, Chirmside, QLD 4032
Phone **(07) 3216 9808**

FILIPINO COMMUNITY COORDINATING COUNCIL OF QLD
Contact: Orly Vargas
GPO Box 2745, Brisbane, QLD 4001
Phone **(07) 3808 7804**

COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC. (FCCVI)
Contact: Perla Luetic
93 Cowper Street, Footscray, VIC 3011
Phone **(03) 9687 9011**
Fax **(03) 9687 9120**
Website: fccvi.org.au
"As the umbrella body, we look after the welfare of the Fil-Aussie communities in Victoria."

ILONGGO ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.
Contact: Melvin Espiga – President
C/- 10 Clues Crt., Sunshine West, VIC 3020
Phone **(03)8361 8606**
Mobile **0416 027 922**
Our next project is to build a multi-purpose hall in Bacolod through Gawad Kalinga.

KALIWAT BOL-ANON SA AUSTRALIA INC. (KABAI)
Contact: Rowella Dango – President, Laura Abejaron – Secretary, Chona Lim - PRO
Phone
Rowella **9559 3674**
Laura **9798 0730**
Lim **0431 379 743**
"We welcome everyone to join our group especially those of Boholano descent.

PAMPANGUEÑO CLUB OF MELBOURNE VICTORIA
Contact: Bernadette Miranda, President-**0424 050 134**
Sonia Santos, Treasurer **- 0421 303 264**
11 Hunter Ave, RoxburghPark,VIC 3064
Phone **(03) 9305 1426**
Fax **(03) 9305 1425**
Mobile **0411 145 776**
Email: royc@iprimus.com.au
The club holds its annual event every Melbourne Cup Day eve.

PANGASINENSES DOWN UNDER MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA (PDUMA)
Contact person: Roger Noveloso
Address: 36 Pitfield Crescent, Rowville, VIC 3178
Phone **03 9764 2072**
Mobile **0402 283 188**
Email: novelosojr@yahoo.com.au
Organisation for Pangasinan-born residents of Victoria and their friends and supporters.

SHARE-ME-A DREAM BISAYAN COMMUNITY CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.
Contact: Choy Symes (President) or Terry Kane (Vice President)
C/- 9 Englewood Court Hillside, VIC 3037

Mobile
Choy **0422 807 339**
Terry **0409 675 246**
Email: choysymes.shareme@y7mail.com
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