

Filipino Australian Community Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held 10th January 2010
(Philippine Community Centre – Laverton)

Meeting Chaired by Roy Carbungco
Minutes taken by Michael Wright

Meeting Commenced 1.05 pm.

Present:-

Sue Jaraba	(Melbourne Integrated Sports Inc.- MISCI)
Adel Gamat	(Melbourne Integrated Sports Inc.- MISCI)
Mila Cichello	(Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc.-BACNI)
Sabina Riego	(Melbourne Integrated Sports Inc.- MISCI)
Irene Buckle	(Filipino Aust. Friendship Assoc. Of Geelong -FAFAG)
Peter Cichello	(Bayanihan Australia Community Network Inc.- BACNI)
Barry Buckle	(Filipino Aust. Friendship Assoc. Of Geelong -FAFAG)
Remy Raquel	(Manila Ballroom Club)
Yolly Raquel	(Manila Ballroom Club)
Helen S.A.-Acuna	(Bridge Builders For Australasia Inc. BBFA)
Lyn Castillo	(Bridge Builders For Australasia Inc.-BBFA)
Josephine San Agustin	(Bridge Builders For Australasia Inc.BBFA)
Judy Wright	(Pampangueno Club of Victoria Inc. PCVI) (Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines- ERFFP) (Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc. – PFVI)
Rosenni Vella	(Australian Visayan Association of Victoria - AVAVI) (Circulo Capizeno of Melbourne Inc.-CCM) (Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines- ERFFP)
Marilou Collie	(Ilocano Filipino Australian Assoc of Vic Inc.- IFAAV)
Leomarie Apines	(Circulo Capizeno of Melbourne Inc.- CCM)
Romeo Apines	(Circulo Capizeno of Melbourne Inc- CCM)
Resy Lim	(Gabriella) (Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc. – PFVI)
Fely Roxas	(Pilipino Elderly Assoc. South East Region-PEASER)
Cecille Byrne	(Ilocano Filipino Australian Assoc of Vic Inc. - IFAAV) (Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines)
Neds Sarcepuedes	(Ilonggo Association of Victoria.)
Yollie Truz	(Geelong Social Club)
Michael Wright	(Pampangueno Club of Victoria Inc.- PCVI) (Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines- ERFFP) (Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc. – PFVI)
Roy Carbungco	(Pampangueno Club of Victoria Inc.- PCVI) (Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines- ERFFP) (Philippine Fiesta of Victoria Inc. – PFVI)

Introduction

Each person present, briefly introduced themselves.

The meeting chairman, Roy Carbungco, then provided the meeting with a brief history of the Emergency Relief Fund for Philippines (ERFFP). He explained that the ERFFP was a joint initiative of Pampangueno Club of Victoria Inc., Circulo Capizeno of Melbourne Inc., Ilocano Association of Victoria Inc., and the 'Beauties of 2009 Philippine Fiesta Beauty Quest'.

He went on to note that currently, there are many individual organisations and associations within the Victorian Philippine community, all separately raising funds. He noted that there was little or no co-ordination of activities between these groups, sometimes resulting in several events being held at the same time.

He expressed the vision of the group that, for maximum help and effect, there should be a **co-ordinated community response** to Philippine calamities, and that **one** working group co-ordinate emergency relief on behalf of the whole Filipino community.

This meeting was therefore organised to offer these ideas to the wider community for comment and input. **There are two agenda items:**

1. After the experience of the recent typhoon in the Philippines, the group proposes a co-ordinated community response to future calamities.
2. To compile a Community Calendar of Events 2010 to prevent the event clashes of previous years.

Agenda Item 1.

The general idea of a co-ordinated community response to future calamities, managed by one working group, was discussed.

Remy Raquel noted that many clubs are committed to their own fundraising activities for their own specific projects in the Philippines. He asked if a single working group would dictate the club's ongoing fund-raising activities.

Roy Carbungco answered that there was no intention to deny any club their individual fundraising activities, and that those activities would continue unaffected. Roy explained that the general idea envisaged by ERFFP is that if a major calamity occurs in a region of Philippines, the clubs or associations linked with that region would be the ones that co-ordinate the fundraising activities, and that all other clubs and associations would support these activities in a 'community-wide' co-ordinated response.

These clubs or associations co-ordinating the fundraising would then be responsible for distribution of funds as they deem necessary, and would be the ones accountable to ensure funds were going where most required.

It was highlighted that there is a need to have legitimate trustworthy organisations in the Philippines to distribute any raised funds. Roy replied that the ERFFP would be responsible to ensure legitimate organisations in the Philippines (e.g. ABS-CBN) are available to distribute funds.

Roy advised the meeting that the ERFFP intended to hold an annual fundraising dinner dance to start a 'reserve' of funds ready for distribution in the event of a Philippine calamity.

Resy Lim suggested that it would be a good idea if a small percentage of the takings from future community fundraising events is given to the ERFFP to help build a reserve of funds

for use when future calamities occur in Philippines(e.g. \$200) This idea was generally well received.

Several people questioned whether the ERFFP was government registered. Roy advised that the ERFFP itself was not registered, but the three member associations forming the fund, were all incorporated organisations.

Agenda Item 2.

It was unanimously agreed that the community needs a 'Calendar of Events' as a step forward in coordinating our major events for the whole community this year.

A Draft Calendar of Events was compiled together by the associations and clubs present at the meeting. For transparency to whole community, it was agreed that the Draft Calendar be published and broadcast to the community via internet, newspaper & radio in order to provide all organisations the opportunity to add to it (see **Filipino Community Calendar of Events**).

Action Item 1:- Mila Cichello to put Draft Calendar on the BACNI website

www.bayanihanaustralia.org

Action Item 2:- Roy Carbungco to inform Radio of the Draft Calendar and the ERFFP.

Action Item 3:- Michael Wright to provide details to George Gregorio (Philippine Times.)

It was also agreed by all present, that there is an urgent need to get a comprehensive list of all associations with contact details to facilitate communication between organisations about the Calendar and future emergency activity.

Mila used a map to help the group compile a list of known Filipino associations in Victorian geographic regions. The Draft List of Filipino Community Organisations generated by the associations and clubs present at this meeting will again be 'put out' to the wider community to allow additions and/or corrections (see **List of Filipino Aust Organisations**). All present agreed to inform other organisations of the Draft Calendar and the List of Organisations and to invite them to add to both. Fely Roxas proposed that the draft and final Calendars and List be posted on the BACNI website as it is the only organisation present maintaining its own community website and office. Contact persons are the ERFFP Secretary and the BACNI Secretary.

It was agreed that all additions to both the draft Calendar of Events and the List of Filipino Associations be completed by **31st January 2010**.

The final 'Community Calendar of Events' and the 'List of Filipino Associations' would then be 'posted' publicly on the BACNI website and circulated widely to interested organisations.

Because many organisations are not members of FCCVI, it was suggested that the FCCVI may have a list of its member associations to add to the compiled List of Organisations.

Action Item 4:- Marilou Collie & Neds Sarcepuedes to request list of members from FCCVI ASAP.

Meeting Closed 3 pm.