

MAGAZINE FOR THE WELLINGTON FILIPINO COMMUNITY

KABAYAN

Spring 2013 • Issue No.3

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**Small voices singing
their hearts out for uke**

**What's in your
emergency kit?**

**Smart Gilas vs
Wellington Saints –
Laban Pilipinas!**





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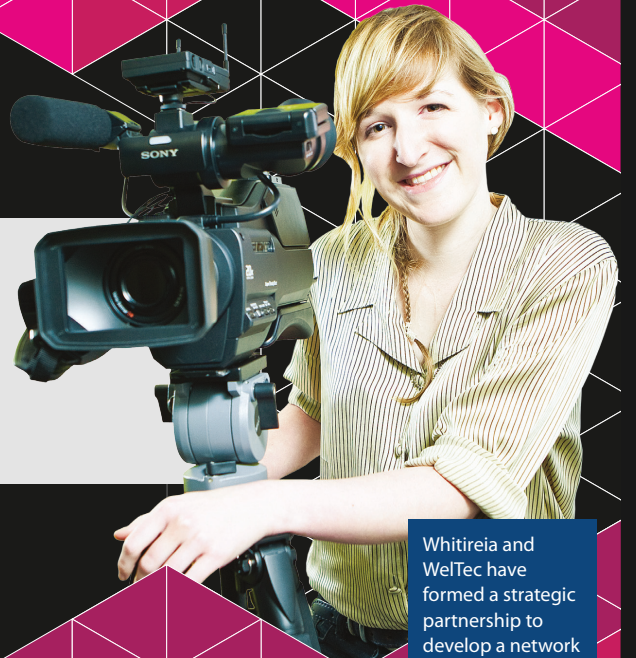


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Hey kids! Colour in this picture (and ask your mum and dad who Florante and Laura are)

Illustration by: **Mike Javier**



Florante

Laura



¡O pag sintang labis nang capangyarihan
sampong mag aamá,i, iyong nasasaclao!
pag icao ang nasoc sa púsò ninoman
hahamaquing lahat masunód ca lamang!

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15845/15845-h/15845-h.htm>

editorial

In this magazine we feature the group of Filipino kids' called Munting Tinig. They are a choir and a ukelele band. But to me, they are our cultural ambassadors. Their mission is simple – learn the Filipino language themselves and then pass it along to others one song at a time. I believe it is the regular exposure and immersion in the Filipino language and culture that would help them achieve this goal.

Their mission is similar to ours here at Kabayan.

The Kabayan magazine was formed because of the yearning to connect with our Filipino roots, our own people and our own culture. That is something our team is passionate about. The hope is that this would nurture or stoke your interest and understanding of the Filipino culture and heritage.

We know there are others who share our passion. We hope there are a lot more who are willing to support it.

Just as the Munting Tinig kids have their families and friends to support them, we too hope that we have the community behind us in this endeavour.

So read on Kabayan, para sa atin 'to (this is for us)!

Kabayan Team

editorial team

Meia Lopez
Editor

Noel Bautista
Associate Editor

Matilde Tayawa-Figuracion
Publisher/Marketing & Sponsorship
Manager

Chia Rubio
Layout Editor

Contributors:

Allan Villarante
Bheng Fernando
Brent Bautista
David Perez
Flora Muriel-Nogoy
Jon and Rhose Bayot
Judith Balares Salamat
Jun Diputado
Kathy Lopez
Mike Javier
Mimi Laurilla
Rey Non
Reynirio Sto Domingo

Credits to **Alan Raga** for the cover
page collage of *Munting Tinig*

feedback

Congratulations on the publication of the Kabayan magazine. It is an interesting magazine with great articles and images. I found it very informative and enjoyable reading.

– **Joy Dunsheath, Chairperson, NZ Graduate Women, Wellington Branch.**

Congratulations on the first Filipino Newsmagazine. I enjoyed reading KABAYAN and was both informed and moved by it. I am sure it will be a great success. Everyone loves magazines with such a variety of topics not just for Filipinos too.

- **Caroline McGrath, Education and Communications, Language Line, Office of Ethnic Affairs**

Huge CONGRATS to Kabayan. It's such an awesome resource for those wanting to learn more about Filipinos.

– **Leilana Meredith, Event Organiser, Arts, Culture and Events, Auckland Council**

Congratulations and many thanks for sharing this! – **Amie Dural, Pinay Aotearoa**

CONGRATULATIONS on the first Filipino newsmagazine in Wellington – **Fe Muriel, Broadmeadows**

I am glad to hear about the success of KABAYAN. I read through the articles specially the open letter from the Young Once and they made me cry. I started feeling nostalgic about our good old days in Wellington. I am so proud of all of you for your unwavering commitment and sincere efforts in promoting Philippine culture and reaching out to our kababayans in Wellington. Please extend my congratulations to the rest of the editorial staff of Kabayan. Ang galing ninyo!

– **Liza Estalilla, former Cultural Officer, Philippine Embassy in New Zealand**

Congratulations to KABAYAN and thanks for sharing it with us – **Eudesa Masters, Friday Club, Wellington**



Ambassador Virginia H Benavidez addresses the leaders of the Filipino community

Filipino community leaders meet for the FilCom Centre Project

Flora Muriel Nogoy

Leaders of various Filipino Community organisations met on 5 July 2013 at Sentro Rizal, Philippine Embassy in Wellington to discuss the steps forward to building a Filipino Community Centre (FCC) in Wellington. The Trustees of Bulwagan Foundation Trust (BFT) took them on a unique journey, whose destination marks the fulfilment of a dream to:

"Promote and preserve our heritage so that our children and our children's children will be able to celebrate what makes us unique as a people in this city that we now call home."

The FCC will also serve a proud testimony of the spirit, identity and richness of the Filipino heritage. BFT presented a number of ways the Filipino Community can get involved or example Adopt-a-brick, Alkansiya, Pledges or you can create your own fundraising programmes. The Alkansiya in the form of polished coconut shells are now available. Details are noted in the Minutes on our website www.bulwagan.org.nz.

The road ahead is challenging but I am sure the key to making this dream a reality rests on hard work, sacrifice and our being unified as a community.

Mission accomplished

Meia Lopez

On Saturday, 22 June 2013, the Sts Peter and Paul parish in Johnsonville commemorated the 70th death anniversary of Fr Frank Vernon Douglas with a special mass. Local parishioners (including many Filipinos), members of the Douglas family and staff from the Philippine Embassy headed by Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez attended the service.

A Wellingtonian priest, born and raised in Johnsonville, Frank Vernon Douglas entered the seminary in 1927 and joined the Columban missionaries in 1935. He was supposed to go to China but by some twist of fate he was assigned to the Philippines instead and arrived in Manila in 1938. It was a mission that would cost him his life.

Suspected of being a spy for the guerrilla hiding in the Sierra Madre mountains, he was picked up by Japanese soldiers from his convent in Pililia, Rizal in July 1943. He was brought to the Catholic church in Paete, Laguna where he was beaten and tortured.

They wanted him to reveal any information about the guerrilla that may have been shared with him in confidence and even during confessions. If he knew anything at all about the guerrilla movement, Padre Francisco never budged; he was resolute in his silence to uphold the seal of confession. Eye witness accounts of his ordeal showed a man full of courage and determination. After three days he was taken from the church and loaded onto a truck – never heard from ever again.



Padre Francisco with Filipino altar boys and head sacristan Mang Islaw

First Filipino priest ordained in Wellington

Jun Diputado

A native of Maribohoc, Bohol, Fr. Dennis Nacorda was ordained as a priest on 10 August 2013 at St. Patrick's College Chapel, Silverstream, Upper Hutt, Wellington. He is the first Filipino (and Boholano) ordained in the Archdiocese of Wellington, New Zealand. A native of Maribojoc Bohol, Philippines, Dennis did not enter the seminary straightaway. He studied to become a veterinarian and then actually worked as a vet before entering the seminary for six years in the Philippines. One of his major influences is his uncle who is a priest in Bohol who served to inspire him in rekindling the strong calling to priesthood he had as a young boy. He spent two years in Japan as part of his preparations for the ministry, focusing on language and culture. He then immigrated to New Zealand to complete his training, this time concentrating on pastoral training for one year under Fr. Alan Roberts of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Blenheim, and proceeding to complete a postgraduate diploma in Theology at Good Shepherd College in Auckland for another year. For Fr. Dennis, the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience are not a big challenge to becoming a priest. He gave himself to this vocation because he believes God is calling him to become a minister. Let us all pray for the continued zeal and enthusiasm of Fr. Dennis in his journey as a priest to serve God and His people.



Kasagip celebrates its 4th anniversary

Mimi Laurilla and Noel Bautista

KASAGIP Charitable Trust ("Community Partners in Times of Need") celebrated its 4th Anniversary on 17 August 2013, at the Dowse Art Museum. Among its distinguished guests are Philippine Ambassador Her Excellency Virginia Benavidez, His Worship Upper Hutt Mayor Wayne Guppy and His Worship Lower Hutt Mayor Rey Wallace. The guests in their speeches discussed the benefits of diversity brought about by the migrant community, and the positive contributions of the migrant community in general. They lauded KASAGIP for its mission to help migrants in vulnerable and helpless situations for the last four years. They also encouraged the organisation to continue to be of service to Filipinos and other ethnic groups.

The Ambassador and the two Mayors led in the installation/oath taking of the new members of the Board of Trustees – Mar Esparas (Board Chair), Rey Cabauatan (Vice Chair), Tina Florendo (Board Treasurer) and Michael Siazon (Board Member).

New volunteers were also recognised at the programme by the Ambassador, with acknowledgement of the other members of the KASAGIP who will be holding some administrative duties, including Rachel Pointon as the incoming Executive Director (and interim Board Secretary), and Ed Alforte as Petty Cash Manager.





The image of Our Lady of the Assumption



Parishioners and the Filipino community at the start of the afternoon program

Paraparaumu community celebrates the Feast of the Assumption

Bheng Fernando

On 17 August 2013 the Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta celebrated the feast of its patroness, Our Lady of the Assumption at the Paraparaumu Memorial Hall. The celebration was preceded by eight days of novena and on the ninth day (15 August) which is the actual day of the feast, a 24-hour Rosary Vigil was held.

The fiesta celebration started with a Holy Mass at 1pm concelebrated by Fr. Michael McCabe and Fr. Mario Ortiz. Himig Assumpta Kids Choir led the singing of the mass hymns. This was followed by a Cultural Programme which was hosted by Neil Martinez. The showcase of world class Filipino talents was shown on the performances of the Wellington Filipino Community Choir, Mercy Abanes of Kapiti Coasters and Munting Bayanihan Dance Ministry with their Singkil Dance.

The event was graced by Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez and Philippine Embassy guests. After the programme, early dinner was served featuring a variety of sumptuous Filipino cuisine. Raffle prizes were handed out to the lucky winners. It is indeed a remarkable event and the Servant Leaders of Brgy. Santa Maria Assumpta would like to thank all those who have supported the occasion and to the Lord Almighty and to Our Lady of the Assumption to whom we give back all the glory!



New Zealand Men Team members: Delfin De Guzman, German Ebue, Alan Vermaak and Gregorio Nicolas Jr.

Pinoys represent NZ in 10-pin Bowling World Seniors Championship

Rey Non

In early August, three Wellington based Filipinos donned the silver fern as part of the 4 man team that competed in the World Seniors Championships in Las Vegas. Greg Nicolas, German Ebue and Delfin de Guzman were amongst the 124 bowlers that carried the expectations of their respective bowling communities. If not for the withdrawal of two other Wellington based Filipinos – Rey Non and Belle Swain, the Seniors squad would have featured 5 Filipino bowlers out of 8.

Overall, the three Filipinos bowled well against the best of the Seniors field. Greg, German and Delfin finished the tournament ranked 36th (195 average), 38th (194 average) and 91st (181 average) respectively.

As at this article's deadline, Belle Swain is in Las Vegas competing with the NZ Adult Ladies team in the World Championships.

Later in the year,

- Rey Non and Belle Swain will join the NZ Seniors team for the Australian Seniors Challenge.
- Greg, Rey, and Belle will be part of the NZ Seniors Team for the 12th Asian Championships.

Smart Gilas team takes on Wellington Saints

Basketball fans were treated to a nail biter game between the (developmental) Philippine national basketball team, Smart Gilas and the Wellington Saints at the TeRuaparaha Arena in Porirua on 16 July 2013. More on this story on [page 19](#).



SINGING THEIR HEARTS OUT FOR UKE

Ako’y munting tinig, may munting pangarap, I am but a small voice, I am but a small dream. But what is this dream? *By: Kathy Lopez*

“Did you leave your ‘po’ at home?” This was one of the most frequent questions my aunt would ask my cousins and I on the way to school. The first Filipino words I learnt were, “opo,” and “hindi po.” I tried to use them as much as possible, but I would sometimes forget the ‘po’. As a five-year-old, I didn’t know what ‘po’ actually meant. Looking back, I wish that I knew more Filipino words, and I wish that when I was younger, there was a group like Munting Tinig.

I’ve seen them perform at Te Papa last year and at the St Andrew’s on the Terrace this June. They sang, danced, played the kazoo and the ukelele. The audience loved it. I did too. I thought playing the ukulele was cool.

I didn’t know that the reason there was such a group was so that they could learn the Filipino language! Tita Didith (Figuracion) told me that two years ago, during a Filinartists meeting, she and her friends saw how difficult it can be to keep in touch with our cultural roots especially for young Filipinos like me. We may forget to *mano* (bless) or forget to speak our language altogether. We start answering in English when asked something in Tagalog. So they decided to do something about it. They wanted to teach young Filipino children (12 years old and younger) our language. But how? The idea was to teach the children the language in a fun and entertaining way.

Kids love to move around and do things, so it would only make sense to teach it while doing a fun activity. They thought of getting the kids to learn to play an instrument like the ukulele and sing Filipino songs at the same time. That would be an effective way to keep them interested. That was how the Munting Tinig group was created.

As first, the organisers struggled to find people to teach the children Filipino songs and how to play the ukulele. But with the help of some friends, willing teachers (like Shane McAlister, Tita Lulu Marquez and Tito Robert Ty) and keen children, the



group started to take shape. Although the original plan was to sing mostly Filipino songs, they also learnt English and even some Maori songs. But the kids learnt a lot more than these. Karylle, one of the members, revealed that she used to have stage fright, but since joining the group, she’d gained the confidence to perform. Sometimes all we need to conquer our fears is a little support from those who are going through the same things we are. I think that with any group activity, your interest in learning something new becomes your motivation for joining. It is the people you meet there that make you go back. Jodie told me, “it’s fun because we get to meet up together, we get to learn together.” Friends can be a great motivation for trying new things, or pushing the boundaries of things we never thought possible.

I joined them for one of their practices, and like any room full of kids it was loud, fun and energetic. It was great! I should have brought my guitar, sang with them and brushed up on my Filipino too.

The Elusive

By: Brent Bautista

FIRST JOB

Foot in the door – that's all we want. But how do we start?

Knowing yourself is one thing but describing yourself is another. On finding a job, one of the most important things to remember is to put your best foot forward. You have to present yourself as the best candidate for whatever job you're applying for, without sounding arrogant or too proud.

It took a while to get my first job but finally, after sending in numerous CVs (both physical and online), my efforts have paid off. When I finally landed a job, I was ecstatic! (I honestly can't put my feelings into words. But it was comparable to how I felt when I passed the entrance exam for the university I wanted to attend back home in the Philippines. I felt really happy and blessed.)

So here's my take on how you should prepare to get that (first) elusive job.

Tailor your CV to the job you are applying for. Customise your CV and always point out skills and qualities you have that other people might not have. Make sure to relate these to the job you are applying for. Some jobs require you to be independent and some require you to be in a team. If you like to do both, say so but don't pretend to be somebody you're not.

Your CV must speak for you especially for jobs you apply for online and situations where you won't be able to see the prospective manager/boss before getting an interview. Put together an image of yourself based on your personality (are you friendly and helpful?), experiences (have you interacted with people from different ethnicities and backgrounds giving you that cross cultural perspective from your travels overseas or interactions in school?) and skills (are you good with managing your time, multitasking or prioritising?).

Get the best referees possible. Ask your high school (college) principal or your parents' friends if they are willing to be your referee. Get someone who knows you and is willing to help and can vouch for your professionalism.

Do your homework. It helps a lot if you know the employer or have referees working within the workplace you are applying at. Find out as much as you can about the company where you are applying.

During interviews make yourself very presentable. From your clothes to your demeanour, you are being observed. Wear clothes you feel comfortable in and always appear open and approachable. There is not one job in the world that would turn away people with those qualities, if there were, they would probably be jobs most people wouldn't apply for. (ha-ha just kidding.)

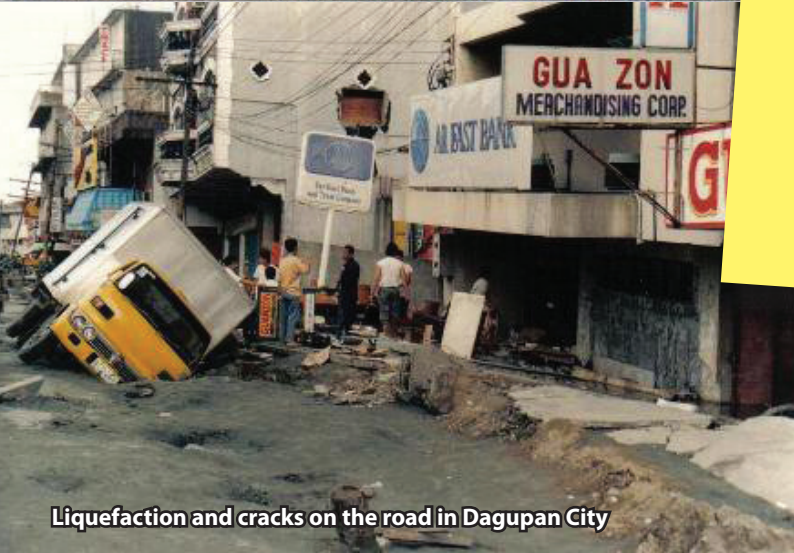
Now comes the hard part – asking for prior job experience when it's your first job (locally). Most jobs you apply for needs prior experience but how can you get experience without getting a job? I can only think of two ways to convince the employer to give you a chance. Work for free for a specified amount of time depending on what you're open to, for example one to two weeks, whatever floats your boat. The other is to ask for an interview and character reference check and if they like what they hear then they might give you a shot.

So, when you do get the job, you better show them they picked the right guy. Cheers and good luck to all the young people out there looking for employment, it definitely isn't easy but it's all worth it!

You go guys :)



The Baguio Hyatt Terraces Hotel after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake



Liquefaction and cracks on the road in Dagupan City

It happened quite suddenly. It felt like the giant boulder in Indiana Jones was hurtling down on us or a stampede of wildebeests was charging towards us. “Lumilindol,” (there’s an earthquake) somebody said. It was an earthquake alright – stronger than anything I’ve felt before and it didn’t help that I was on the fifth floor of a Makati building at the time. I knew I had to go under the table but I stood there frozen. I closed my eyes, waited for the ceiling to collapse on us while we were shaken left to right and up and down. It seemed to go on for a long time. I could hear our reporter¹ praying out loud. I closed my eyes tighter. But just as quickly as it had begun, it became suddenly still again.

It was 4:26 pm on Monday, 16 July 1990 and a 7.8 magnitude earthquake had hit the island of Luzon. The epicentre was near Rizal, Nueve Ecija, 156 kilometres away from Manila (and Makati where I was). Check out the video² of school children from Gabaldon, Nueve Ecija (38 kms³ away from the epicentre) as the earthquake struck.

By the time we got back to the office, staff have been sent to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija (35 kms⁴ away from the epicentre) because a school building had collapsed.

¹ I was working as Production Assistant for The Probe Team and Luchi Cruz-Valdez was our reporter.

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_51uKhal_q8

³ <https://maps.google.co.nz/maps>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_earthquakes_in_the_Philippines

July 16 1990

One Monday
afternoon, the
earth shook
under our feet.

By: Meia Lopez

Others were preparing to go up to Baguio City where reports of damage were slowly trickling in. La Union and Dagupan City in Pangasinan also sustained heavy damage.

The Christian College of the Philippines (CCP) building in Cabanatuan City collapsed with many students trapped inside. The rescue operation was hampered as there was no adequate equipment available to lift the blocks of concrete pressing down on the students. That did not stop the acts of bravery from the townspeople and other students from rescuing students inside the buildings. Robin Garcia comes to mind – a young high school student himself, Robin rescued 8 other students from the building before being trapped and killed during an aftershock.

I remember going to a small barrio outside Cabanatuan City a few days after the quake. Through the open windows and doors of the nipa huts we could see coffins at almost every house. They were not big coffins either as they were for children and young teenagers. We met and spoke with an old man who lost 3 of his grandchildren in the quake.

Just as heart-breaking was the scene that unfolded in Baguio City. Known as the summer capital of the Philippines, much of the pine-covered city was under piles of rubble. Many hotels, buildings and houses were damaged. Television news showed the Baguio Hyatt Terraces Hotel lying in a heap like a stack of pancakes on a plate. Just outside the building was a woman with a megaphone crying out loud “Michelle, Michelle. This is mommy...” It was unclear if mother and 5-year old daughter Michelle were reunited happily.

Rescuers worked tirelessly to get trapped people out in the days and weeks that followed. In the end, an estimated 1,621 people died from the quake, considered to be the second deadliest⁵ earthquake in the Philippines since the 1600s.

The BIG one

We've been cautioned so many times and some people say we are overdue for a massive earthquake. We just experienced a couple of severe ones lately but is that a precursor to something else?

We all know the drill: drop, cover and hold. But what would you do straight after an earthquake? If you were at work or at home, will you stay in the building or will you go out? We asked some friends and members of the Filipino community what they would do and here are some of the responses we got.

"I will stay in the building and only go out once it is safe to do so." – **Tess**

"I will go out of the building if I'm in the mall or the supermarket. But I'd stay inside if I'm at home." – **Chris**

"I will stay in the building – our building is safe." – **Kat**

"I will stay in the building" – **Ben, Sophie**

"I will go out of the building" – **Karen, Lisa, Ashlee**

This is a tough question. A bit vague, we must admit. It would of course depend on at least a couple of factors – the severity of the quake and the actual building you are in. The Civil Defence website www.getthru.govt.nz recommends that during an earthquake, you "stay indoors until the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit." If "after an earthquake, the building you are in gets damaged, try to get outside and find a safe, open place. Use the stairs, not the elevators." Visit the Civil Defence website for more information about what to do in an emergency.

We did a survey with members of our community -what's in your emergency kit at home? And the survey says ... (the bigger the font, the more often it was mentioned).



Most of these items are from the Civil Defence list but there were other items not in the list mentioned to us including: money, whistle, knife, rice, water purifying tablets, Vivid pen, Swiss army knife, hand sanitizer, bleach, dried fruit, chips, chocolate, noodles, lollies, wine, plastics glasses and plates, juice, various documents (passports, insurance policies), high visibility vest

Stay safe everyone!



By: Judith Balares Salamat

“Viva la Virgen”: A Paean to the Blessed Virgin Mother (Ina)

Bicolanos and Filipinos worldwide celebrate the Penafrancia festival

For Filipinos, September is the start of a lengthy Christmas celebration. For others, it is a month for remembering the traces of the Marcos era --- September 11 being the former President’s birthday; and 21st of September being the anniversary of the declaration of the in(famous) Martial Law. However, for Bicolanos, the month of September connotes a different meaning. It is the month for the celebration of the Blessed Virgin of Penafrancia. It starts with the traslacion (the transfer of the Blessed Ina (Mother) from the Basilica Minore to the Naga Metropolitan Cathedral on the second Friday of the month where a nine-day novena is held, and culminates with the Fluvial Procession (locally termed *sakoy*) on the third Saturday of the said month. Said *sakoy* transfers Ina from the Metropolitan Cathedral to the Basilica Minore, her Shrine throughout the whole year.

What is the fuss about all this traslacion and fluvial procession associated with the Blessed Virgin of Penafrancia that leads thousands of pilgrims, devotees, and tourists to the heart of Bicolandia (Naga City) every month of September?

Other people from other religions may have called this Penafrancia celebration fanaticism, paganism, or idolatry, but Catholics not only from Bicol but other parts of the Philippines and the rest of the world associate it with miracles, healing, devotion, faith, and reverence to

their blessed Ina (Mother). Miracles and devotions trace back to the time when Bicolano natives saw how a dog with a slashed neck came to life again once submerged into the Bicol River (where the modern-day fluvial procession is held); and by a government official’s family of the Covarrubias from Spain who lived in Cavite, Philippines and whose son (other references says it was a daughter) became terminally ill in 1712 and was miraculously healed through their devotion to the Blessed Virgin of Penafrancia in Penafrancia, Spain. This son, who eventually was ordained a priest, vowed himself to build a chapel in Manila in honour of the Lady of Penafrancia, but because the then Nueva Caceres, or Naga City now, became his first official assignment, he had a chapel built in this place instead of Manila¹.

This devotion to the Blessed of Virgin of Penafrancia in Bicol, which started in the 18th century, continues not just for Bicolanos today. Naga City is considered as one of “the biggest Marian Pilgrimage sites in Asia². The festivities reflect a sense of gratitude to the Ina for all the blessings they received, like a good harvest, a healed member of the family, new job, reunited family, or passing in board and bar exams. Until a year ago, the Bicolanos’ much-loved “*tsinelas* leader,” Jesse Robredo, the former DILG Secretary who was a native of Naga City, began his Marian devotion as early as

16 years old³. Jesse would join traslacion barefoot, year after year⁴, like many devotees and pilgrims who come to Naga City for this occasion.

Now, as the month of September draws closer, Penafrancia devotees from Australia, UK, USA especially in the western parts like San Diego, San Francisco, among others, prepare themselves for their own versions of the festivities, with traslacion and fluvial procession (and of course, 9-day novenas which are capped off by ‘potluck’ dinner for them to also remember the festivities by). Here in Wellington, a group from Naga City, holds similar tradition by observing the 9-day novena and wishes to expand this into a bigger celebration where other devotees could join as the years go by.

To our Ina we have this song to offer to you:

Resuene vibrante el himno de amor
Que entona tu pueblo con grata y emocion
Resuene vibrante el himno de amor
Que entona tu pueblo con grata emocion
Patrona del Bicol Gran Madre de Dios
Se siempre la Reina de Nuestra Region
Patrona del Bicol Gran Madre de Dios
Se siempre la Reina de Nuestra Region.
“Viva La Virgen!”

¹ “History of our Lady of Penafrancia,” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Pe%C3%B1afrancia#In_Naga_City.2C_Philippines

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Pe%C3%B1afrancia

³ statement from an Interview with Leny Gerona Robredo, his wife

⁴ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/274093/lifestyle/culture/robredo-s-memory-lingers-at-penafrancia>

PALAWAN

Are you up for some adventure? Palawan may be the destination for you.

With its majestic limestone cliffs, wondrous underwater scenes, breathtaking beaches, and eco-luxury resorts, Palawan is fast becoming a favourite destination among local and foreign tourists. Palawan is a slice of heaven, a sliver of an island that teems with exotic wildlife, quaint fishing villages, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Wave hello to endangered animals at the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary or explore the Japanese shipwrecks of Coron Island, regarded as one of the best dive sites in the world. A guided boat tour of the Puerto Princesa Underground River, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will take your breath away.

It is no wonder that it topped the Travel + Leisure Magazine's "World's Best Awards¹" this year. It even beat the famous Boracay which came in second followed by Maui, Santorini in Greece, Prince Edward Island in Canada, Bali, Kauai, Sicily in Italy, Koh Samui in Thailand, and Galapagos. El Nido Palawan also made it to CNN's list of the world's top 100 best beaches, including Puka Beach in Boracay, and Palau Island in Cagayan Valley.

I have visited Palawan many times before when travelling in and around the Philippines was still a bit restrictive. Today, with many airlines servicing domestic routes, travel around the country even by locals has become more affordable. Visitors to Palawan and many other Philippine tourism destinations have increased in numbers tremendously. Visits to the nooks and crannies of the Philippines are now very popular. Domestic tourism is very upbeat.

There are 101 things to do and see in Palawan. You are spoiled for choices. But my most memorable experiences were not the guided tour to the Underground River or the white sand beaches in Dos Palmas and El Nido but eating extraordinary fruits and unforgettable encounters with the wild and domesticated animals.

I was fortunate to have been invited to a private orchard of one of the well-known families in Palawan. I got to eat a green mango the size of a buko (coconut) and seedless guapple (big guava) and atis. To my surprise, the mango still tasted very much like the Indian mango (why we call it such, I do not know).

Visiting the Calauit Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary, and the Underground River was the highlight of my visit. My husband Clark was kissed by a parrot in the ear and I bottle-fed a monkey who slept like a baby in my lap. In the Underground River, the monkeys were so domesticated that they grab personal stuff from your picnic table like your bag, food and hat/caps. The animals no longer fend for themselves in the wild but depended on the food given by the visitors. As such, the local government had restricted the visitors from feeding the animals so I hope that this is no longer the case to this day. The crocodiles, too, were so accustomed with people around that they harmlessly mingle with the visitors; you can even touch them. In the Crocodile Farm in Puerto Princesa, you too can pet the baby crocodiles.

I can go on and on but you just got to be there and experience it yourself. It is well worth the trip.

¹ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/315908/lifestyle/travel/palawan-trumps-boracay-as-world-s-best-island>

Dos Palmas, one of the high-end resorts in Palawan

Martial Law

in the Philippines

By: Allan Villarante



The 1970s was a difficult and dark time in Philippine history with martial rule dominating the national landscape.

On 21 September 1972, President Ferdinand E. Marcos issued Proclamation No. 1081 which declared martial law¹ in the Philippines. The Proclamation was made on the basis of what his government perceived to be having threat of rebellion from the Communist and Muslim insurgents in the south,² staging the assassination of his Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile³ by the Communist-guerilla New People Army.

An astute leader, Marcos was a well-respected politician before he was elected the tenth president of the Philippines. A lawyer by profession, he was a member of the Philippine House of Representatives (1949–1959) and then a member of the Philippine Senate (1959–1965). He was elected President of the Philippine Senate from 1963–1965.⁴

With martial law in place, President Marcos was able to extend his rule beyond the required constitutional two-term limit, enabling him to become the longest sitting president in Philippine history. He was president from 1965 to 1986. Using martial law to justify his authoritarian leadership, Marcos consolidated his power and influence in government and the entire Philippine society. With

him commanding the Armed Forces, the Philippine Constabulary and the Police, Marcos effectively terrorized the whole country.⁵ Among the issuances that Marcos promulgated under his unlimited police powers were the famous General Order No 1 which placed the entire government political machinery under his direct control, allowing him to exercise all the Presidential powers including his role as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This was followed by his issuance of General Order No 2 which directed the Secretary of National Defense to arrest his political nemesis, including among others Marcos' arch-critics like Senators Benigno Aquino Jr, Jovito Salonga and Jose Diokno.⁶

To ensure that he would be able to legally perpetuate himself in power, President Marcos deliberately promulgated the 1972 Philippine Constitution, changing the 1935 Philippine Constitution. He installed himself as the head of state under the title President, and as head of the Philippine Government by making himself the Prime Minister. Not satisfied by his greed for power,⁷ Marcos manipulated local and national elections to ensure that his political party, the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (New Society Movement) would be able to control the legislative assembly known as the Batasang Pambansa. With a rubber stamp legislature, Marcos was able to perpetuate himself in power for about 20 years, even when he already lifted Martial Law in 1981.⁸

In 1981, Marcos' opponents declared a nationwide boycott to the presidential elections that Marcos himself called.

¹ Primitivo Mijares. 'A Dark Age Begins'. The Conjugal Dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos. Union Square, 1976.
² Amado Mendoza Jr. 'People Power' in the Philippines, 1983–1986'. In Roberts, Adam & Ash, Timothy Garton. Civil resistance and power politics: the experience of non-violent action from Gandhi to the present. Oxford University Press, 2009, 181.
³ Juan Ponce Enrile. Juan Ponce Enrile, A Memoir. ABS-CBN Publishing Inc., Philippines, 2012.
⁴ Manuel A. Caoli. 'The Philippine Congress and the Political Order', Philippine Journal of Public Administration, Vol. XXX No. 1, (Jan 1986).
⁵ Ronald E. Dolan, (ed.). 'Proclamation 1081 and Martial Law'. Philippines: A Country Study. Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1991.
⁶ HW Brands. Bound to empire: the United States and the Philippines. Oxford University Press, 1992, 298; David Chaikin & Jason Campbell Sharman. 'The Marcos Kleptocracy'. Corruption and money laundering: a symbiotic relationship. Macmillan, 2009.
⁷ Jonathan J. Halperin. The Other Side: How Soviets and Americans Perceive Each Other, Transaction Publishers, 1987, 63.
⁸ Mijares. 'A Dark Age Begins', 1976.

One of life's greatest blessings

By: Meia Lopez



Team Alamani:
Isaiah, Marinette, Mikaiah,
Toni-Ann and Inag

This is a family story 25 years in the making as told by Inag Alamani, his wife Marinette and his mother, Nanay Floring.

Inag was a young man when he came to New Zealand (he's going to love this article) and Marinette was a fresh graduate, board-certified dentist. They both came here separately, on their own. Inag knew a friend from university who helped him get a job as an architect while Marinette was here to visit her best friend (Agnes Guevarra). The trip was a family gift for passing the dentistry board exam. Both were single but Marinette did have someone special back home.

Inag offered to tell their story so Marinette says, "Let's see if it's the same as my version." She laughed.

According to Inag, Marinette was going to be here only on a short holiday and then meet up with her boyfriend in Australia. She never crossed the ditch for the rendezvous. With no objection from Marinette, she continued their story. "My boyfriend and I were together for a number of years but when I met Inag ..." Suffice to say she broke up with her boyfriend and got married to Inag later on.

Her family was surprised to say the least because they had never met Inag or his family. Marinette convinced them that he was a good man and came from a good family. Both parents met in the Philippines, without the engaged couple, in the time-honoured tradition of "pamamanhikan" (where the man's parents formally ask the woman's parents for their daughter's hand in marriage).

Inag's mum, Nanay Floring piped in, "I assured them that my son was very much a bachelor." She smiled. It was years before they saw their in-laws in the Philippines because as Inag jokingly put it "we were wanted in the Philippines." For this one, Marinette corrected him. "*Hindi naman* (not really). They've grown to love Inag and his gentle personality. Nanay and the rest of his family are all good."

Fast forward twenty something years later. That goodness has rubbed off on their own family. They are blessed with three children: Isaiah, Toni-Ann and Mikaiah. Raising children properly can be a challenge but this is something they have been able to do so nicely. Inag explains, "Somebody said before, what's the best thing you (a parent) can do or give your children? Statistically (you would think of) education and help them with money. But the right answer is to love your spouse. What's the best thing you can give or do for

your spouse? The answer is to love God. If you love your spouse on your own strength it will fail. But if you love God, even when your spouse makes a mistake you will still love your spouse. It is easier to love others when you love God."

It is no surprise that they are close-knit family where love of God and respect for others and particularly their parents and elders rank highly in their family values. Marinette says "*Marunong magmano, say hello hindi lang basta dadaan.*" (they show respect by kissing the hand of elders, say hello and not just walk by (without a word).). Nanay Floring adds "*Marunong sa gawaing bahay.*" (They know how to do housework.)

Inag says they have a democratic household where he encourages their children to make their own decisions. But it does not mean a free reign for them. There are times of course when Marinette has to put her foot down and get the children to do certain things. She also insisted that they learn to play a musical instrument. "I'm thankful that my mum made me learn the piano because now in my spare time I can teach young children how to play and earn a bit of money." Toni Ann confirms.

Clearly one can see how much they value hard work and perseverance. They had their fair share of challenges while establishing their careers here but they have done well. Inag even won the 2001 Wellington Telecom Art Award and his artwork graced the cover of the Telecom Residential Directory the following year. This achievement had been featured in both Pinoy Abroad and Mel&Joey TV programs in the Philippines.

You will surely find lots of love and laughter in the Alamani household. Family is truly one of life's greatest blessings.

NEVER A BAD HAIR DAY

We meet Liz Tan, Filipino hairdresser based in Tawa, Wellington.

Let's admit it. When we were young kids we loved to play "make believe". We became rock stars, doctors and even superheroes. For many kids and for practical reasons, some of these games remained just that - games to feel nostalgic about years later. But things were different for one special girl.

Liz Tan loved her dolls and loved fussing over their hair - braiding, curling and dare I say it, cutting it too. A natural hairdresser one would think. But it was not a path she took straightaway. Liz took up English at university and had a career in sales before deciding to take on her childhood dream.

A livelihood program called "*Isang gunting, Isang suklay*" ("One pair of scissor, One comb") initiated by successful Filipino hairdresser and philanthropist Ricky Reyes made a deep impression on Liz. Six years ago, just before Liz and her family came to New Zealand, she completed a hairdressing course at the Ricky Reyes Learning Institute (RRLI). She practiced cutting, styling, colouring and treating the hair of pretty much everyone around her - family, neighbours

and even strangers during an outreach program at the RRLI. (A sudden snapshot flashed into my head - people from all walks of life with fabulous hairstyles wearing their dusters and Spartan tsinelas.) She learned to cut hair in less than a week and loved every minute of her course. So when she received her certificate from Ricky, she knew that she could make a career out of it.

And so she did. Within four days of arriving in New Zealand, Liz had a job as a hairdresser at a local salon in Auckland (and later in Wellington). She worked at a couple of salons for about two years until the demand for her personal service prompted her and hubby Allan to seriously consider setting up their own salon. Built on a sound business plan, "can-do" attitude and lots of prayers, the Hair Liz salon opened in Tawa in 2010. It is the first and only Filipino owned and operated hair salon in Wellington. Liz does the haircutting of course while Allan looks after the administration, marketing and business side of things.

Three years on, their salon is thriving with a steady set of loyal customers. Liz says it is important to be accommodating but realistic about people's expectations of their haircuts. There are a number of factors to consider when making over someone's hair - there's the hair type (coarse, fine, straight or curly), the skin colour, the shape of the face and the customer's lifestyle. Instinctively, she knows what style would suit a customer. I suppose that confidence comes from an innate talent and eye for great hairstyles. But she won't push you if you are not up for it. "I have a customer who's been with me since I started the salon and her hair has always been long. One day I asked her if she would let me make over her hair. She was a bit hesitant so I let it go. But she decided to let me do it later on. It turned out great and she was happy with it. When somebody tells me 'Go for it', I get really excited because that's when I can show my creativity."

But if a customer is insistent on a particular hairstyle that just wouldn't work, there is only one thing to say: "I'm a hairdresser, not a magician." She jokes. That was never her childhood dream.



Owning a business and doing what she loves, a dream come true for Liz Tan

How to have fabulous hair

1. **Use a shampoo and conditioner that suits your hair** - Go for natural products if you can.
2. **Wash your hair less often** - this will retain some of the natural oil in your hair. Use warm (not hot) water to wash your hair. Rinse with cold (or cold-ish) water for shinier hair.
3. **Use heat protector spray before using a straightening iron, curling iron or blow dryer** - Don't blow dry dripping wet hair and protect your hair from heat damage by using a heat protector spray.
4. **Have a regular trim** - Keep those split ends at bay and get rid of damaged hair with a regular trim.
5. **Work with your hairdresser and try something new** - a new hairstyle, colour and highlight and hair rebonding can add a bit of flare to your hair.
6. **Eat for healthy hair** - Choose food rich in omega 3, protein and vitamins B6 and B12 and drink lots of water (the water you drink hydrates your hair too).

Growing veggies

without

soil

anyone?

By: Jun Diputado

With spring upon us why not give gardening a go?

So you think of growing your own vegetables, but do not want to soil your hands? Or you keep on putting off gardening because buying heavy sacks of potting mixes and compost is a pain? No worries, you can grow your vegetables without soil! How? Some call it hydroponics, others call it soilless culture. Call it whatever name you want, but such technique should take care of two important functions of soil: anchorage and providing nutrients to the plant. Hydroponics need not be a sophisticated and expensive technique. For the home garden, it can be done with just the following: discarded fruit (or fish), polystyrene boxes and cups, sphagnum moss and a little potting mix, tap water, and hydroponic nutrient powder which is readily available in the market. The generators of this technology (Santos and Ocampo of IPB, UPLB, Philippines) call the system SNAP (Simple Nutrient Addition Programme) because indeed, nutrient feeding is such a simple task.

Here's what you need to do:

- Line the fruit box with any plastic sheet
- Fill the box with about 10 L of nutrient solution (I use Herbs Hydro Nutrients)
- Invert the cover then make four circular holes on top of the cover, into which 12-oz styro cups should fit snugly (the cups should have four holes at the bottom to which the plant roots can come out)
- Put 2-cm layer of sphagnum moss at the base of the cup then fill the rest of the space with potting mix. At least 2-3 cm of the bottom of the cup is immersed in the nutrient solution to allow the solution to rise thru capillary movement.

Arrange the boxes in an area protected against wind and rain (rain dilutes your nutrient solution) but where sun shines through (e.g., in a verandah or conservatory), to allow maximum photosynthesis. Then finally, you are ready to transplant your vegetable seedlings into the cups.

Except for occasional topping up of the solution to maintain the original volume, or replacing the solution with fresh one every three weeks, all you need to do from hereon is watch your plants grow until they are ready for harvest.

You can even leave home for a 2-week vacation and still find your plants growing healthy when you come back! My favourite veggies with this system are bokchoi and lettuce, although I have also successfully grown capsicums and strawberries.



Lettuce harvest day!



Growing herbs and capsicum in polystyrene boxes



Strawberry in a cup

(Note: The author is a learning facilitator of the Taratahi and Open Polytech National Certificate in Horticulture, Levels 3 and 4 and invites enrollees to the programme which is fully subsidized by the government for NZ citizens and permanent residents. For details call him at 021-02649208 or email him at misael@hort.ac.nz).



Julianne (middle) with her Dad and a friend



Fore!

Promising talent on the green

Accompanying dad to the driving range has certainly paid off for young golfer Julianne Alvarez

By: Noel Bautista

Tucked away in a quiet, unassuming corner of one of Wellington's quiet, unassuming suburbs lives one of New Zealand's most talented female golfers. At the ridiculously young age of 17 she is number five on the New Zealand Order of Merit¹, and would rank even higher if she played more tournaments. And yes, she most definitely is a Filipina, the child of Pinoy parents Vergel and Monica Alvarez.

Before you conjure images of untold riches and superhuman feats made popular by budding golf superstar Lydia Ko, already the number one amateur golfer in the world, for the most part Julianne Alvarez is an unaffected, low-key Year 13 student from one of Wellington's respected Catholic schools. Julianne would rather hang out with friends in the mall rather than discuss her achievements. But she has just been too good and too competitive to bloom like a rose isolated in the woods.

Since she was five, Julie has always competed with golfers much older than her, says mom Monica, who credits husband Vergel as the initial influence in their daughter's golfing life.

"I think she was around seven or eight, swinging her golf irons one Saturday when a trio of Manor Park (their golf club in Lower Hutt) ladies approached and asked if she could complete their foursome." It only took the slightest of prodding from her parents for Julianne to join the foursome for what would be the start of something big.

Less than 10 years later, Julianne has become one of the brightest hopes of New Zealand women's golf and is a mainstay of Team Wellington in challenging Auckland and the other powerhouses in annual interprovincial competition. Her potential is literally unlimited.

And so the inevitable question is asked: in a perfect world, would Julianne be willing to lend her vast talents to represent the Philippines for international glory?

Apparently the perfect situation must remain unreachable, because strict rules of the sport and citizenship challenges would make Julianne's participation in the national team at best, a faint and remote possibility.

But as the shoe ad says, impossible is nothing, and never say never. By combining native Pinoy competitiveness, innate talent and unswerving discipline, there is no limit to what Julianne Alvarez and her golf clubs can do. Wherever she goes, her kabayan community will be looking on proudly!

Mabuhay Julianne and family!

¹ The New Zealand Order of Merit in golf means a season-long player ranking run by New Zealand Golf based on the highest to lowest points on the Order Of Merit (OOM) Calendar. Points are allocated to Tournaments dependent on the strength of the field and their ranking within the R & A points ranking system.

Gilas Pilipinas in New Zealand

samu't sari

By: Matilde (Didith) Tayawa-Figuracion with David Perez

The Philippines last qualified for the World Championship 40 year ago, in 1973. The New Zealand tour, exhibition games & training camp is a significant factor for Gilas' historic success. Thanks to David Perez for organising the training camp and exhibition games here in New Zealand.

They say things happen in a strange way. The Gilas Pilipinas team was originally scheduled to play in the Jones Cup in Taipei, Taiwan. But because of an international dispute (where a Filipino Coast Guard shot and killed a Chinese Taipei fisherman), the Philippines, which is the defending champion of the Jones Cup, was uninvited to the tournament.

David Perez, organiser, training camp and tour coordinator of the Gilas Pilipinas trip to New Zealand, took this as a welcome opportunity. He managed to organise the coming of the Gilas team to train and be coached by Tad Baldwin (the Hawkes Bay Hawks coach) and play against New Zealand's professional basketball teams such as Wellington Saints, Tall Blacks and other regional teams from 17-21 July, to prepare them for the FIBA Asia Championship in Manila, Philippines on 1-11 August. It turned out that their training camp and exhibition games against taller players were one of the major factors in their finishing 2nd in the FIBA Asia Championships. They have now qualified for the World Cup 2014 in Spain.

In Wellington, Gilas Pilipinas played an exhibition game with Wellington Saints on 16 July at Te Rauparaha, Porirua. Wellington Saints won by 4 points, **100-96**. KABAYAN Publisher Matilde (Didith) Tayawa-Figuracion interviewed the coaching team and some of the players for their feedback of the game, their training camp and their short visit to New Zealand. Here's what they said:

Question: Overall, what can you say about your game against Wellington Saints?

Chot Reyes (Coach): Our players played

well. I'm disappointed with the officiating of the game, some of our best players were in foul trouble and our big player Marcus Douhit was unable to play due to injury, but overall, I'm happy with the outcome.

Josh Reyes (Assistant Coach): While we may not have won the game, we are here to train against the big players and despite our big man (referring to Marcus Douhit) unable to play, our players have shown their strength and their speed, and I'm happy with that.

Jimmy Alapag (#5): We fell short but it was still a good game. We are here to train for the FIBA Asia Championship and I believe we achieved that.

Gary David (#8): It was a good game.

Question: Your team was winning in the last three quarters of the game and it was only in the last two minutes (2.13 minutes to be exact) of the fourth quarter that Wellington Saints took over, what can you say about that?

Gabe Norwood (#14): We needed this kind of game as we will learn what our strengths and weaknesses are. We will watch the video of our games and we will try to address what needed addressing.

Japeth Aguilar (#4): We need to work on our defense. We need to play against taller players to prepare us for the FIBA Asia Championships in Manila in August.

Question: In your short visit here, what can you say about NZ?

Jeff Chan (#7): Nice. *Sarap dito, malamig lang* (Love it here, it's just cold).

Junmar Fajardo (#12): It's cold but you have a beautiful country.



Gabe Norwood (#14): I'm a FilAm (Filipino American) so I miss this kind of weather. I've been in the Philippines for the last 5 years.

LA Tenorio (#18): It's cold but we feel warm with the number of Filipinos coming to cheer for us. On behalf of the team, *salamat* (thank you) to everyone who came to watch and cheer for us today!

Balagtasán

By: Reynirio Sto Domingo

Editor's note: *Balagtasán* is a Filipino form of debate done in poetic prose. The name *Balagtasán* comes from prolific Filipino poet Francisco Baltazar¹ (his nom de plume was Francisco Balagtas) who was born in 1788 in Bigaa, Bulacan. He wrote a number of literary works most notably the epic love story, *Florante at Laura* written entirely in prose. He wrote his poems in Filipino at a time when most writings were done in Spanish.

*Balagtasán*² became popular during the American occupation (early 20th century) as it promoted nationalism and the use of Filipino as the language of the people. As a debate, the *Balagtasán* is delivered by three characters, one speaks for and the other against the debate argument and the third as the narrator or facilitator. Each speaker takes turns speaking in front of an audience. The tone of the arguments can range from being serious to witty and funny. Although it is not so common to witness it in the Philippines, *Balagtasán* still has a place as part of the *Buwan ng Wika* (Language Month) celebrations held in August in many schools around the country.

We are privileged to receive this piece from our own Young Once poet, Reynirio Sto Domingo. In the debate, the question is: should we or shouldn't we practice family planning? The side that is for family planning points out the issue of over population and responsible parenthood. The other side argues the benefits of having siblings who can help you through hard times. The final argument comes from the side against family planning where it is said, if we had family planning, you yourself might not have been born.

Dapat ba o hindi dapat magplano ng familia

Unang Tindig

DAPAT:

Nang marinig ko ang aking pangalan sa lakandiwa
Agad akong napangiti, napahalakhak ng ba'gya
Papanoo'y ang panig ko, siyang dapat ipagawa
Upang bayan ay bumuti, nang tayo ay managana
Ang buod ng aking paksa na ngayon ay ilalahad
Ay siyang dapat masunod at dapat na ipatupad
Ang magplano ng Familia, kabanalang nagsasaad
May layunin na mabuti, sa inyo at sa 'ting lahat.

Itong mundo'y parang lobo, na pagsumobra ang hangin
Ay sasabog ng malakas, at di natin mapipigil
Pagdumami itong tao, na sa mundo'y tumitigil
Gayon din ang mangyayari kaya dapat na pigilin
Isa pa na katwiran, tataglaying pinapakay
Paano mong madadala, kung mabigat itong pasan
Tikay ika'y mauuklo, baka iyong ikamatay
Kung marami ang dalahin na sa iyo'y nakadagan.

Kung ikaw katalo ko, ay magnilay at limiin
Kung iyo pang itutuloy ang pagbigkas sa tulain
Alalahanin mo lamang, katwiran kong babanggitin
Nasa muling pagtayo ko, T.K.O. kang dadamputin
Pagkat dito sa katwiran, ilalahad ko pa mandin
Ay tiyak na magtatalo, ang puso mo at damdamin
Malalagay ka sa puesto, sa gilid ng isang bangin
Pagkilos mo ay panganib, kung mahulog nama'y THE END

Pangalawang Tindig

DI DAPAT:

Kung sabagay akong ito ay di likas na Makata
At sa ngalan ng panulat ay talagang walang wala
Ngunit dahil sa tabil nang katalo kung magmakata
Na pilitang sagutin ko ang katwirang balewala
Binanggit ng katalo ko itong mundo'y parang lobo
Na sasabog pagsumobra itong hanging naririto
Nguni't di niya na-alala, iyong hanging nya sa ulo
Napaglumabis sa kanya, tiyak siyang maloloko

Kung ikaw na katoto, tigilan mo iyong ngiyaw
Kuting ka lang sa pagkilos, sa ganitong balagtasán
Alam mo bang noong una ang tatay mo at nanay man
Buong ligayang nagsama, kahit anak nila'y siyam
Napalaki, napag-aral, sa malinis na paraan
Kaya ngayon ang ate mo, siya sa iyong nagpa-aral
Ang kuya mo at iba pang kapatid mong naturingan
Siyang tanging naging gabay ng ama mong minamahal

Ano't ngayon nagkaroon nitong hustong kaisipan
Ay nais mong ipaputol ang biyayang naturingan
Hindi mo ba naiisip na kung noon unang araw
Ang magplano ng Familia sa bansa ako ay umiral
Baka di ka na nakita, pagka't kayo'y dalawa lamang
Ang ate mo at ang kuya sila lamang naging buhay
Sana'y hindi ka sumapit, namasdan ang kagandahan
Nitong mundong pinipita, bayan nang sansinukuban.

¹ <http://www.poemhunter.com/francisco-balagtas/biography/>

² <http://philippines1900.tumblr.com/post/264994585/the-balagtasán-debate-in-poetic-verse>

Florante at Laura Crossword Puzzle

For those of us who studied Florante at Laura back in high school, give this a go.¹

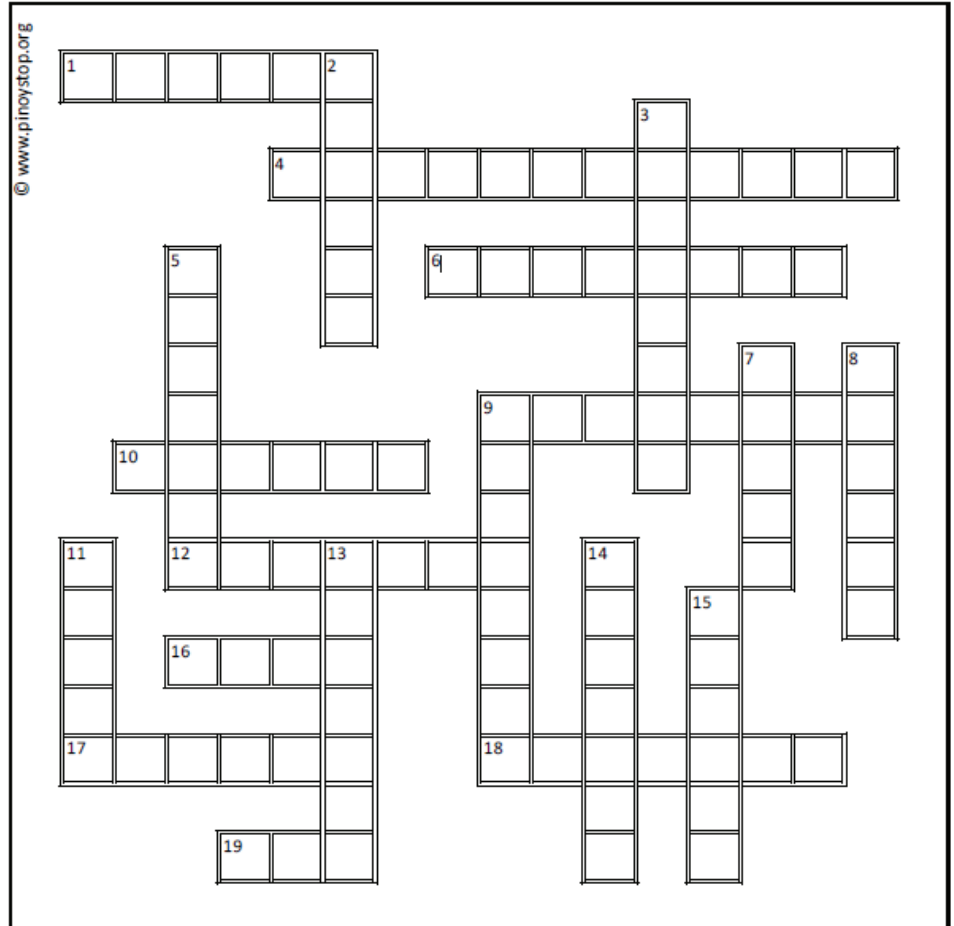
By: Jon and Rhose Bayot of Pinoystop.org.nz

Across

1. One of Albania's rival countries
4. Aladin and Florida eventually converted to.
6. Francisco _____ - The writer of Florante at Laura.
9. Florante's cousin who saved him from a falcon.
10. _____ - Laura's King father.
12. Florante's kingdom.
16. Florante at Laura is written as an " _____ " or song.
17. Prince of Persia who saved Florante's life.
18. Persian general who was killed by Florante during a military expedition.
19. Nickname given to Ma. Asuncion Rivera.

Down

2. _____, Greece - Where Florante and Count Adolfo studied and met.
3. Francisco Baltazar's pen name.
5. Aladin's love interest.
7. The hungry wild animals waiting to eat Florante in the forest.
8. Where Florante was exiled.
9. Florante's friend who saved him from Adolfo.
11. Florante's love interest.
13. Florante, Menandro and Count Adolfo's professor in school.
14. General Miramolin is a general of this empire.
15. Count _____ - Florante's rival and the antagonist in the novel.



Florante at Laura Crossword Puzzle Competition

Complete the Florante at Laura puzzle and be in to win \$50!

Rules:

1. The competition is open to everyone but only one entry is allowed per person.
2. Answer the puzzle, scan the page and email your entry to kabayanmag@gmail.com OR hand in your entry to any Kabayan Team member.
3. Put in your full name and contact number in the email message.
4. Deadline for submission of entries is Monday, 30 September 2013.
5. A winner will be drawn from all correct puzzle entries on 2 October 2013.
6. The Kabayan Team will contact the winner and award the prize of \$50.00 on an agreed date.

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florante_at_Laura

Hey kids! Colour in this picture!

Illustration by: Mike Javier





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TACTICS Ltd, Level 1, 241 Thorndon Quay,
PO Box 2916 Wellington, New Zealand

P: +64 4 918-1330

Email: tactics@tactics.co.nz

Congratulates the Editorial Team and the Publisher of KABAYAN, the first Filipino newsmagazine here in Wellington, New Zealand.

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upcoming events

Filcom Launch

The **Filipino Community Centre Project's** big launch **fundraising evening** is on 14 September 2013, 7 pm at the Petone Working Men's Club. Check out the Bulwagan Foundation Trust website (www.bulwagan.org.nz) for more details. See you there.

Pistang Pilipino sa Rotorua

Head out to Rotorua for the **Pistang Pilipino sa Rotorua** on 26-27 October 2013 (Labour weekend). The line-up of events include a number of sporting activities (such as basketball, volleyball, golf, badminton, tennis, 10-pin bowling, 9ball, darts and sepak takraw), mobile consular services, an art exhibition, a cultural show, the Miss Philippines New Zealand pageant and a thanksgiving concert. There will also be an Annual General Meeting for the Federation of Filipino Associations, Societies and Clubs in New Zealand, Inc.

Join our kababayans all over New Zealand and support the Wellington representatives for this fun-filled gathering.

Laughing Out Loud sa Wellington

Enjoy a night of laughs at the **Laughing Out Loud sa Wellington** show on 16 November 2013. This promises to be an evening full of fun and laughter with stand up comedians from Manila, Jeffrey aka "Justine", Edward aka "Peanut" and Russell aka "Russelicious". The show will be held at the Notre Dame de Missions Performing Arts Centre Sacred Heart School in Lower Hutt starting at 8 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm).

Tickets are available from FilipinoMart Johnsonville and Lower Hutt, Pinoy Central Lower Hutt and Samu't Sari Upper Hutt, Beth Arboleda on 027 858 9912 / 04-479 1533 and She Kavinta on 021 102 0429 / 04 565 3108. Check out their Facebook page.

Late Nights with DJ Elmo

If you are hankering for some OPM and news from the Philippines, join Fr Elmer Ibarra, SVD on Hutt Radio 106.1 FM for his new radio programme "Late Nights with DJ Elmo". He is on air every Monday from 9 to 11 pm. Put in a song request or promote a Filipino event by contacting Fr Elmer on 890 0448 or email him at djelmo@huttradio.co.nz

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For every signed insurance or mortgage with me, I am committed to support this Filipino newsmagazine (KABAYAN) and other Filipino community events and projects.

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