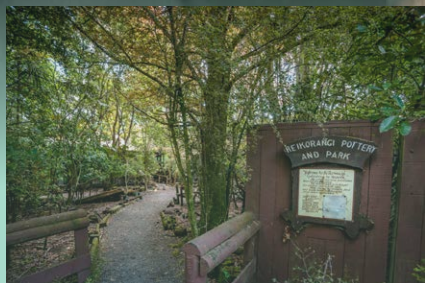


MAGAZINE FOR THE WELLINGTON FILIPINO COMMUNITY

KABAYAN

SUMMER 2015 (DEC 2015-FEB 2016) | ISSUE NO. 12 | FREE COPY



FROM KAPITI COAST TO DARAGANG MAGAYON | REY VALERA WALANG KUPAS

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I love this time of the year. The sun is out (sometimes). The nativity scene adorns many churches. People are buying presents.

It is Christmas time.

In our last issue, K wrote a letter to her Kuya whose birthday was coming up. Well, Kuya has replied to her letter; it's a good read I think. And before we get caught up in the preparation for Christmas, Dinna reminds us to face God first. A great advice.

I love this time of the year. The sun is out (sometimes). For many, work is winding down. School is out.

It is time for a holiday.

Whether we are travelling home to the Philippines or to other countries, it is a welcome break from our often busy lives and daily routine. Some would go away for an adventure or catch up with family. But staying at home, having a barbeque with friends, eating halo-halo on the porch and simply having a do-nothing day can be equally appealing too.

In this issue, we look at travel from many angles – those who work in the travel industry, a Kiwi travelling through the Philippines, a young Pinoy on his big OE in Europe and even Jose Rizal's first trip overseas.

So for our cover it seems apt to use our iconic and truly Pinoy king of the road, the jeepney. It's an original Sarao with horses and mirrors on the hood, and the ceilings painted with images of Mayon and Taal volcano. It put a smile on our faces when we all saw it. The Martinez family and the Kabayan team had an enjoyable time shooting this at the Southward Car Museum. Nigel Martinez talked about his family's journey to Wellington or as he called it, Middle Earth.

If you haven't explored Middle Earth very much, now would be a good time. We look at some must-see places in the Kapiti Coast and the Wairarapa. So go ahead, go on that road trip.

The sun is out (sometimes).

Meia

TALK TO US:

How do you think we are going? How can we make it better?
Any story idea you'd like to see featured in the magazine? Email us on kabayanmag@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.



DREAM BIG, START SMALL.

Let's support the FilCom Centre Project! To help, go to the Bulwagan Foundation Trust website www.bulwagan.org.nz and check out the different fundraising programs (Adopt a Brick, Alkansya and pledges).

KABAYAN

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ON THE COVER

The Martinez family: Neil, Arnie, Nigel, Nadia, Nadine and Grandma Anna

Thanks to the Southward Car Museum in Otaihanga, Paraparaumu, the venue for our cover photo.



Team picture at Araneta Coliseum. The team is a mixture of Saints players, NZ U19 2009 team members and imports.



Wellington Saints performing haka before the start of the game with Gilas Pilipinas

WELLINGTON SAINTS COMPETE IN MANILA VERSUS GILAS PILIPINAS

David E Perez, Manager Wellington Saints

David Perez, shares his experience with the Wellington Saints. How strange that a Filipino is managing a New Zealand team and a Kiwi (Tab Baldwin) is coaching Gilas Pilipinas.

Gilas Pilipinas hosted the inaugural MVP (Manny V Pangilinan) Cup in Manila on 11–13 September 2015 with Wellington Saints representing Basketball New Zealand. The MVP Cup is a three-day tournament run as a single round-robin event.

The New Zealand team played against Gilas Pilipinas at the 25,000 capacity Araneta Coliseum in Manila.

This was to reciprocate the visit of Gilas Pilipinas to New Zealand in July 2013.

With a home court advantage, Gilas Pilipinas came back from a double digit deficit to win the game by three points (84-81) in a thrilling end-game.

Gilas Pilipinas won the Cup and the \$25,000 prize while the Wellington Saints were the runners up. Other teams who competed were the Philippine Talk 'N text and Chinese Taipei.



THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENS

The Bulwagan Foundation Trust Press Release

The Bulwagan Foundation Trust, the Philippine Embassy officers and staff, Lower Hutt Mayor Ray Wallace and the Filipino community joined the official opening of the Filipino Community Centre (FCC) located at 92–94 Cuba Street Petone, Lower Hutt on 26 September 2015.

The official opening of the Filipino Community Centre began with a ribbon cutting ceremony officiated by Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez and His Worship Mayor Ray Wallace of Lower Hutt. Then Fr Danny Cipriano blessed the Centre and led the Filipino community and the Centre's guests in prayer. Mr Tamati Cairns, Kaumatua and Chair of Puhoe Ki Poneke led a brief powhiri, a traditional Maori welcoming ceremony followed by a waiata (song) by the Wellington Filipino Community Choir (WFCC).

After this, Pastor Rasik Ranchord, Founding Pastor of the Abundant Life Centre said a prayer of dedication.

There were performances from the Wellington Filipino Community Choir, the NZ Filifest Cultural Group, Kathy Lopez, Hibiki Kitahara, dance duo Ms. May Young and Mr. Jun Samblaceño, Sam Non, Gino Tapia, Denzel Lozano, Ren-C Tamayo and Kim Laroza. As the Ambassador's term was about to end, members of the community gave their farewell messages including Coco Tuazon of the Young Once, Chona Smart of Mabuhay, Anita Mansell of NZ Filifest Cultural Group, and Alice Lozano (Flora Nogoy read her message). Those who attended the event shared a midday salo-salo of Filipino food.





A festive salo-salo



The Karori Youth Group posing at their decorated entranceway.

BARANGAY STA TERESA CELEBRATES THEIR FIESTA

Carlos Pariñas and Reine De Mesa

Barangay Sta. Teresa held its annual Barangay Fiesta on October 3 at St. Teresa's Hall in Karori. Our barangay is comprised of Wilton, Karori, Northland, Highbury, Kelburn and Makara, but many from outside our barangay also attended the fiesta.

To start the festivities, Fr. Danny Cipriano celebrated the mass. The newly formed Barangay Sta. Teresa Youth Choir led the singing.

A Filipino fiesta is not complete without fun-filled games, performances and of course, food. There was a variety of games catering to different age groups such as the Balloon Dancing for the adult couples, the Coconut Race for the young adults and the Filipino classic 'Pabitin' for the young children.

The fiesta also showcased several performances like the Munting Tinig who performed their best by singing

and playing ukulele at the same time, the Moms of Karori and also the best act, in our opinion, the band 'Combination Fried Rice' made up of dads in Karori. But what is a fiesta without the lechon? Of course, we had one!

This year's fiesta was certainly unforgettable for us, the youth of Karori. For the first time, our newly formed youth group was involved in the preparation for the fiesta. Not only did we sing at the mass, we also decorated the hall, all with only three weeks to prepare!

All our hard work and sacrifices in the build up to this fiesta made the event much better. Next year, we hope to step it up a notch if not match the standards we have set this year.



Dr Eflida Bautista with Green Party MPs Catherine Delahunty and Denise Roche



Bautista with Auckland event organisers Migrante Aotearoa and Leyte-Samar NZ Solidarity Foundation Inc

DISASTER POLITICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE SPEAKING TOUR IN WELLINGTON

Amie Dural-Maga

On 12-17 October 2015, Auckland Philippines Solidarity (APS), Philippines Solidarity Network of Aotearoa (PSNA) and Wellington Kiwi-Pinoy (WKP) hosted Dr Eflida Bautista of People Surge for a speaking tour entitled "In the Eye of the Storm: Disaster Politics and Climate Change in the Philippines". This speaking tour was intended to highlight the issues that victims of typhoon Haiyan are still struggling with, particularly the lack of suitable housing despite the large amounts of international aid and support donated by the international community.

The Wellington tour was held on 14 October at Wesley Wellington Parish 75 Taranaki Street, Wellington. It was hosted by the Wellington Kiwi Pinoy group. Dr Bautista also met with Members of Parliament (MPs) from the Green Party, Labour Party and NZ First, requesting them to ask the

Philippine government how NZ aid money was spent.

"Aside from reports of spoiled food packs and expired medicines in storage, the Commission on Audit's report that millions of Haiyan relief donations are sleeping in banks tells us that the government sees no urgency in delivering much-needed aid for the people", Bautista noted.

"The poor Filipinos devastated by Koppu and Haiyan especially those in farming and fishing communities need urgent livelihood assistance. We hope that the inquiry of New Zealand Members of Parliament on how NZ aid for Haiyan will remind the Philippine government of its duty to be accountable to the people", Cameron Walker of Auckland Philippines Solidarity (APS) stated.



Santana carrying the NZ flag at the 8th Asia Pacific Deaf Games



SWIMMING SUCCESS FOR SANTANA

Irene Benito Gayagoy

Santana Louise Chapman, Santy to her family and close friends, was born profoundly deaf in both ears and had a Nucleus Cochlear Implant when she was four and a half years old. But it hasn't stopped her from achieving in the sports she loves—swimming.

She competed at the 8th Asia Pacific Deaf Games in Taiwan this October where she won two bronze medals for New Zealand in the 50m and 200m breaststroke events. She was also the sole New Zealand representative at the games and the first New Zealander to win medals at these games. The games attracted 1500 athletes from twenty-two countries.

Santy is a member of the Coastal Wanderers Swimming Squad. She is 17 years old who recently graduated at Kapiti College with high excellence in sports. She also received many sports awards including the Paton

Family Award for Sporting Excellence for 2015 awarded by the NZ Federation of Deaf Children. She was named Sportsperson of the Year 2015 (three years in a row) awarded by College Sports Wellington and twice as Sportsperson of the Year at Kapiti Sports Awards.

In 2013, she represented New Zealand at the 2013 Deaflympics in Bulgaria, "My next goal is to attend and represent NZ at the 2017 Deaflympics in Turkey," Santana said.

Currently, she is the top ranked and international deaf swimmer representing New Zealand.



PANGAKO SA 'YO—REY VALERA HOLDS A CONCERT IN WELLINGTON

Meia Lopez

Rey Valera had a one-night sold out concert on 10 October 2015. Over 600 came to watch Rey at the Notre Dame Performing Arts Centre in Sacred Heart College, Lower Hutt.

The evening started off with a series of songs from local talents who sang the hits of some of the Philippines' divas.

Rey sang his most popular songs and Wenie said "yung boses nya walang pagbabago para ka lang nakikinig sa radio." For Ely, his songs brought back memories, "Bigla akong parang bumalik sa mga time na sikat na sikat yung mga songs nya. Nagreminisce ako bigla." Boni from Upper Hutt said their theme song was 'Simasamba Kita' to which his wife jokingly said "Lalo lang sya na in love sa akin." Cora from Newlands said that she had a great time at the concert with her friends while Sheila said that she suddenly missed home.

After the concert, Rey gamely signed autographs including one on a guitar for RJ Estalilla "Itong gitarang ito sa Tatay ko pa ito nung nililigawan pa nya si Nanay. Ibinigay na sa akin ni Nanay kasi nagpass away na si Tatay. Ngayon parang treasure na rin sa family kaya dala ko. Isa rin kasi sya sa mga favourite ni Tatay eh."

Lev and Shellah Kavinta of Silhouette Productions NZ Ltd produced the show.

[See related story on page 19.](#)



My Family's Journey to Middle Earth

Nigel Martinez



Then and now: Neil and Arnie Martinez with their kids Nigel, Nadia and Nadine

I was born in Pasig City in 1995, as the eldest son to Arnie (née Orallo) and Neil Martinez. My childhood was full of fond memories spending long afternoons frolicking with cousins and other kids in the streets. I had several relatives who lived overseas, so oversized brown boxes filled to the brim with clothes, toys, and imported food were a regularity.

I cannot even remember the number of yayas [nannies] we have had. I was never needed to help with any chores. Weekends were reserved for family outings where we would spend hours shopping and dining out. Like most middle-class Filipinos, I was desensitized of the plight of the less fortunate. Grease-skinned orphans begging for money during traffic jams were irrelevant to the quests that awaited in my PlayStation games. During Christmas, the endless wave of street kids knocking on our front door singing carols for coins were a nuisance that interrupted holiday banquets, in which leftovers were fed to the family dog.

In 2000, I officially became a kuya (big brother) to my sister Nadia. Whether it was my newfound responsibility as a big brother or just the development of my empathy, it was from here on that I became more conscious of the terrible situation of millions of Filipinos. Teaching this value was of utmost importance to my parents. For one of Nadia's birthdays, we decided to hold the party at a girls'

orphanage instead of celebrating with friends and family. I'll never forget how excited the orphans were at the mere sight of spaghetti and cake; I became more grateful for my family's circumstances.

Nonetheless, my parents, Neil and Arnie, yearned for better opportunities. Inspired by relatives who have done the same, they were ready to leave the comfort of the motherland for the sake of their children. Fortunately, they were determined enough to insist on migrating as a family. We were all very excited about relocating to a whole new world but with a growing anxiety about living in a new and unfamiliar country.

In 2008, my family migrated to Wellington, and we stayed with Filipino family friends who had moved here before us. It was daunting to hear the kids I grew up with speak with a Kiwi accent, play cricket and rugby. I don't even like sports but that's all they seem to do here. I used to wonder, will I sound like this in a year's time too? I had lost any sense of the future, as everyday was full of adventure, but I still felt very homesick for Manila. It was when I started going to school that I grew fond of NZ culture. I made friends with those who were happy to guide me through their way of life. Nadia was making friends too, and we soon adjusted to the teeth-chattering cold which greeted us every morning.

For my parents this was an extremely stressful time, as the risk of deportation increased. It was a struggle to find the right jobs which would support our resident visa applications, but they never showed any signs of worry. Mum was great at making spectacular food from the cheapest cuts of meat so I never felt like we were struggling, and dad remained his gleeful self. In retrospect, I can only imagine how close we were to moving back to Manila. But they persisted and eventually the circumstances worked out for us, and we were able to stay.

In 2012, my sister Nadine became a new addition to the family. Soon after, we petitioned for my grandmother to live with us and help take care of Nadine. As of 2015 we are now lucky enough to call ourselves New Zealand citizens, thanks to the invaluable determination and love of my parents.

Just like other Filipino parents, Neil and Arnie abandoned their comfortable lives in the Philippines to provide a better future for their children. I hope young Filipinos growing up abroad appreciate the sacrifices their parents have made, and also understand how privileged they are to call NZ their home.

Rizal's first year in Europe

Georgina Geotina



Our national hero Jose Rizal was an intrepid traveller. From his travels he brought home a wealth of experience and stories to tell. Without the proverbial view of “how the other half lives,” the oppression of the Filipinos under the hands of the Spaniards would remain status quo and the Philippine Revolution would not have resulted in the first Asian republic. It was particularly his first travel overseas to Europe that influenced him greatly, where many of his experiences mirrored those of our Kabayan who have gone abroad.

His travels started where present-day Filipinos move to seek a better life—Manila. Like Filipinos today who resort to desperate measures, he travelled under a different name in his passport—Jose Mercado¹. Leaving the Philippines on 3 May, 1882, Rizal had to travel mostly by boat and endured bouts of seasickness. He was bound for Madrid, which was accessible from Marseilles by express train.

On his way to Marseilles, he stopped by Singapore, Punta de Gales, Colombo and went through the Suez Canal. He set foot in Europe for the first time in Naples, Italy before arriving in Marseilles on 13 June. There he stayed several days to wander as a tourist. He also wrote “*Amor Patrio*” during the journey, which was published on 20 August the same year.

From September 1882 to June 1883, Rizal studied medicine in Universidad Central de Madrid. In between classes, he wrote various works including “*Las Dudas*”, which he signed under Laong-Laan, the *nom de plume* he likewise used to write for *La Solidaridad* through which his activism ripened and flowed. It seemed like he did not waste any time to begin his work and fulfil his purpose of going to Madrid. He also continued to remember and miss the Philippines he left behind, as evidenced in the letters that he wrote to family then.

From June to August, 1883, Rizal travelled to Paris so he could immerse himself in the culture there and observe surgeries as an ‘extern’ in hospitals. He must have thoroughly enjoyed his trip there because he had the opportunity to explore museums and buildings, and be enchanted by the glorious past that surrounded him everywhere he went.

He walked as much as he could to save money for more important things like the carriage fare to see Champs Elysées, Vendôme Column, Place de la Concorde, Obelisk of Luxor and the Madeleine Church. He sought the company of his kabayan in Europe and spent evenings with them to tour the French city. But he was also a very social person who made friends with the Spanish, Dutch and people of other nationalities.

With them, he visited Parc Longchamp, Musée des Beaux-Arts in the East Wing and the Museum of Natural History in the West Wing, among other tourist attractions.

In his first year in Europe, he worked hard and in his down time explored wonderful places in the company of new-found friends and other Kabayan. Like the maya who returns to the nest, Rizal was a traveler who kept his attachment to his mother country and sought connections to it wherever he went.

¹ <http://joserizal.ph/tr01.html>

Being a Global Citizen

Geo Robrigado



The volunteers invade Krakow.



Playtime while waiting for the barbecue at Zmigrod



Geo with his project teammates Daniel and Nicole



Arts & crafts at Popielów

It was a dreary spring afternoon in September 2014. Rain was pouring continuously throughout Wellington, several classmates and I were busy rushing our papers in our postgraduate office at Victoria University and we were starving. I was dead-set on having sushi for lunch, but a very long queue at the sushi place prompted a sudden change of heart. Little did I know that such a random decision would lead me to the adventure of a lifetime.

It was always my dream to visit Europe. So it was a real blessing when I accidentally bumped into an organisation in Victoria called AIESEC on that day. They were advertising for overseas exchange opportunities to Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Greece, and Turkey. I quickly signed up for the information night and the rest, as they say, was history.

AIESEC is an international not-for-profit and non-government youth organisation that sends young people to different countries to experience and understand other cultures, and to develop their leadership potential. AIESEC was founded after World War II and currently has presence in 126 countries, including New Zealand and the Philippines. I signed up for the organisation's Global Citizen programme, which is the voluntary exchange programme (they also have a paid internship programme called Global Talent).

I was accepted in a project in the city of Wrocław in southwestern Poland (near the borders with Germany and Czech Republic). The project, International Summer Semi-Camps, was organised by the local AIESEC committee at the Politechnika Wroclawska and took in 24 volunteers from different countries. The volunteers were divided into eight groups of three. I was put in a group with a volunteer from Vancouver, Canada and another from Melbourne, Australia. The teams were assigned to different towns around the Lower Silesia region of southwestern Poland every week in a six-week period.

The teams facilitated different summer camps for children, helping in a wide range of tasks such as sports, arts and crafts, and teaching English in each town.

The main objective of the project was to expose Polish children to different cultures through first-hand learning experiences. The children aged between 3 and 18, came from different backgrounds, each with a different life story to tell. Through the summer camps we facilitated, we shared our countries' cultures with the children we worked with. In turn, each volunteer was able to learn a few things about Polish culture. We spent our weekends visiting nearby Polish towns and cities to learn more about the local culture.

Little did I know that I would get more than what I expected. Not only was I able to find an appreciation towards a new culture through experiencing it first-hand, but I was also able to forge new relationships, learn more about myself, and see the world in a different perspective. Everytime the kids told us to 'come back' whenever we said goodbye, I knew we were able to make a difference in their lives.

After my six-week sojourn in Poland, I gave myself a whole month to travel around Europe. I visited the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands. More than the destinations, being able to touch the lives of the people you meet along the way can make your trip truly worthwhile. Traveling can be a real eye-opener. Along the way, I was able to understand the world even more. Not only did I make a difference in someone's life, but the entire experience also changed my life. I can now say that I'm a true Global Citizen.

On that note, I am still patting myself at the back for deciding to ditch sushi, which is still my most favourite food on the planet.

Malaus ka, Pampanga!

Joannes Galvan Bermudez



Kapampangan cuisine undeniably yummy



Men in drag for Aguman Sanduk



Many people go to Pampanga to witness the Mal a Aldo during Good Friday

Pampanga², a haven of food and festivals, is a province in the Philippines which was named ‘*La Pampanga*’ by the Spaniards because they found some natives living near the river banks, or *pampang*. It was originally created in December 1571 by the official act of the Spanish authorities.

THE FOOD.

Pampanga is called the ‘Culinary Capital’ of the Philippines mainly because it is blessed with great cooks trained by Spaniards during the colonial period. These cooks passed their culinary expertise from one generation to the next. When you hear about *tocino*, *pansit luglug*, *sisig*, *tibok tibok*, *biringhe*, *betute* (stuffed frog), *kamaru* (mole crickets), *buru* (fermented rice with fish or shrimps), native sweets and delicacies like *turonnes de casuy*, *pastillas* and *sanikulas* to name a few, you associate them with Pampanga.

I grew up having Pampanga's best *tocino* (cured meat) at breakfast paired with fried garlic rice and a sunny side up egg. *Sisig* is one of the well-known dishes of the province, a dish that was accidentally invented by Lucia Cunanan (the famous Aling Lucing). In grilling the meat, she accidentally burnt the pork's face and belly. As a remedy, she minced the burnt meat and mixed it with chopped onions, chicken

liver, chili, and calamansi juice. *Bringhe* (poor man's paella) is a local version of paella with only native chicken as meat—simple but bursting with flavour. The *sanikulas* is a famous cookie from Mexico, Pampanga made by a Capampangan food historian, Lillian Borromeo.

Pampanga is also known for its exotic dishes such as *kamaru* and *betute*. *Kamaru* are rice-field crickets cooked with soy sauce, vinegar and sautéed with tomatoes, onions and garlic until slightly crispy. *Betute* is a frog dish with minced pork and deep-fried until crispy. Many say that these exotic dishes taste like chicken.

THE FESTIVALS.

Pampanga also has an array of socio-cultural and religious festivals. The San Pedro Cutud Lenten Rites (*Mal a Aldo*) during Good Friday is one of the popular festivals where tourists and devotees from around the world come over to witness the re-enactment of the Passion of Christ culminating with the actual nailing of at least three penitents on wooden crosses atop a makeshift Calvary.

Pampanga is also dubbed as the ‘Christmas Capital of the Philippines’ with its annual Giant Lantern Festival, also known as *Ligligan Parul*. It is a yearly competition

of lively, large and extravagant lanterns showcased and handcrafted by various groups in the *barangays*.

Aguman Sanduk or the Fellowship of the Ladle has been held for the past 83 years in the town of Minalin, Pampanga. It is a cross-dressing parade to welcome the New Year. Men and boys wear women's clothing and heavy make up. They take up ladles and parade around town before converging in the town plaza in front of the 400-year old Church of Sta. Monica to choose the *Reyna Ning Aguman Sanduk*, or the queen of the ladle. It was said that the tradition began in the early 1930s when Minalin lost its harvest due to drought. To cheer up its townspeople, a group of professional men called *Aguman Alang Tutul* (The Fellowship of No Opposition) put on women's clothing and makeup, set up tables in the plaza, and cooked congee and other food to share with the rest of the town.

Whether it is food, religious or purely fun festivals, Pampanga has it covered.

²Photos taken from:
<http://www.pampanga.gov.ph/>
<http://www.headlinegl.com/aguman-sanduk-ning-min-alin-the-fellowship-of-the-ladle-2/>
<https://kapampanganation.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/food.jpg>

Wellington Road Trip

MASTERTON: A HOME AWAY FROM HOME FOR A NEWCOMER IN NZ

Samson D. Salamat



Samson by the duckpond area, Queen Elizabeth Park



One of the preserved Redwood trees inside the park



Welcome to Masterton!

I started my journey as a newcomer in New Zealand in the place “100 kilometres north-east of Wellington,” called Masterton. For almost two months in winter of 2013, I stayed in this place and experienced the beauty of nature. Living temporarily in such a very beautiful place dotted with sheep grazing on pasturelands was like living in the middle of real-life post card images.

Masterton is a large town and local government district in the Wellington Region of New Zealand.

It is the largest town in the Wairarapa, a region separated from Wellington by the Rimutaka ranges. It is 28 kilometres south of Eketahuna, on the Ruamahanga River.

For me, while Masterton looks like a rustic place, it also looks very cosmopolitan—with big shopping centres, supermarkets and business establishments. However, one cannot ignore its connection to the land. It is after all the home of master shearers. This is the place in the North Island that

celebrates the festival of sheep-shearing, hence the name, ‘Home of Golden Shears.’ It is also the home for the preserved giant redwood trees (Queen Elizabeth Park).

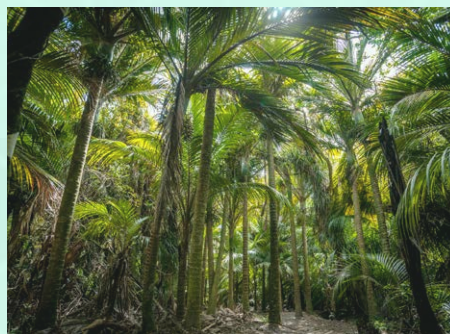
I recommend Masterton as a place to see and visit especially to those who love to be surrounded with acres and acres of farm—not rice fields, though, but cattle and sheep.

MY FAVOURITE KAPITI HIDDEN GEM

Bernie Velasco



Reikorangi Potteries Park and Cafe How to get there: From SH1 at Waikanae turn into Elizabeth Street and continue onto Reikorangi Road then slight left onto Ngatiawa Road and your destination is a few metres on the left. The park charges minimal fees.



When one mentions the word Kapiti, one cannot help but think about summer picnic and crabbing alongside its beautiful warm sandy beaches. The Kapiti coastline is approximately 40 kilometres long and peppered with popular beaches. But there is more to Kapiti than its coastline. A few of my favourite Kapiti hidden gems are the Nikau Palm Reserve, Whareroa Farm, and Reikorangi Potteries Park and Café.

REIKORANGI POTTERIES PARK AND CAFÉ: This place is tucked in Reikorangi Valley and “features a wilderness garden that

has a character of a rainforest, where there are no distinct boundaries between buildings and trees, one encroaching the other”. It offers pottery, a farm park, and a café.

My wife and I enjoy having tea in the café surrounded by a museum-like display of art works and old world charms. Outside the café is a garden where I particularly like walking under the bamboo trees. The farm features old barns and implements—a camera magnet. There is a “wide range of animals including llama, deer, donkeys, kea, peacocks, geese, cockatoo, wallaby, and

kune kune pig.” Visitors are encouraged to feed the animals. There are picnic tables by the river.

I like this place because of its rustic character with a farm park as a bonus.

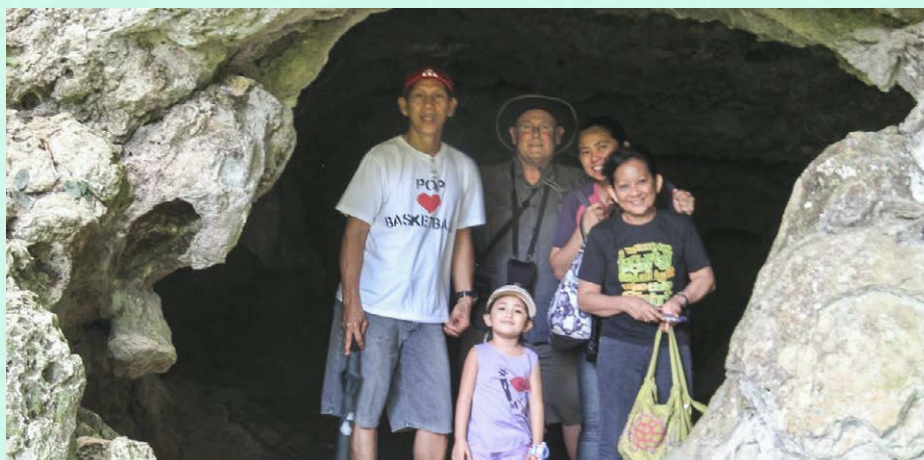
Oh, a visit to Kapiti is incomplete without dropping by Lindale for a scoop or two of the world-famous Kapiti Ice Cream.

Pilipinas

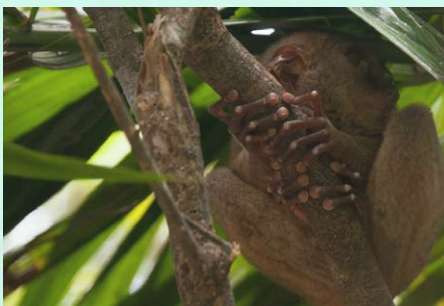
Craig Phillips



To live in freedom's light is the right of mankind: Pacific War Memorial, Corregidor Island



Hoyop-hoyopan caves and new friends



A shy tarsier



Daragang Magayon rising from the sea

A few of the members of Aotearoa Philippines Photographic Society (APPS) (unsurprisingly) wondered if our cameras would like a trip to the Philippines. One thing led to another and two of us set off for a two-week journey of discovery (for me at least, as one of us was born in the Philippines) in March 2015.

I looked forward to this journey with great anticipation, mainly arising from experiences travelling to Asia and fun time here in New Zealand with friends from the Philippines. I wanted to experience the diversity of the Philippines — its people, places and lifestyles. In particular, I wanted to see Daragang Magayon, catch up with a long-time friend in Cebu City (who I hadn't seen for over 20 years), and learn more about José Rizal.

The journey began in Cebu City where I stayed in a private home — wonderful hospitality. I was struck by the security around homes in residential areas — high fences topped off with rolls of barbed wire. That kind of security was something I had only ever really seen on TV until then.

I caught up with my friend in Cebu, visited the Santo Niño Basilica and was impressed with the reverence given to Santo Niño de Cebu, and went on two walks around historical parts of Cebu and Lapu-Lapu City.

I spent a most enjoyable, interesting and quite tiring day in Bohol. In one day I got to see the tarsier, the tarsier man, went on the Loboc river cruise and had a sumptuous lunch, saw the chocolate (well starting to become chocolate) hills, butterflies and moths, rice fields, workers in rice fields, rice drying, mahogany forests (quickly passed

through), Baclayon church, the blood compact memorial and the most gorgeous sunset to behold. So yes, it was good but tiring.

The next stop was Daraga, Albay. The hospitality and kindness shown by family of friends in NZ was so amazing, and I experienced so much because of their kindness. Sharing time with this lovely family was the most memorable aspect of being in Albay, and in particular, the two days of being shown their lovely region with Mt Mayon as the central feature.

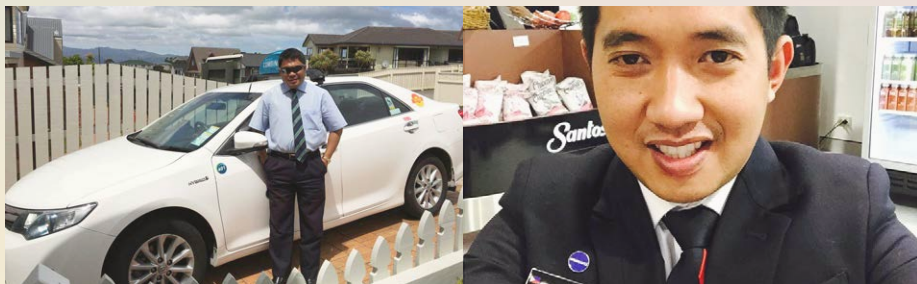
Daragang Magayon was so much more than I had envisaged. A little lower than Mt Taranaki, Mt Mayon is so much more a dominant feature of the landscape, rising from the sea. I also loved our trip through the Hoyop-Hoyopan Cave, truly amazing. There was so much more to see and do in Albay that could fit into two days.

Onto Manila, I was fortunate to have accommodation with a view over Manila Bay, and just across the road from Rizal Park. It was time to soak up some Philippine history. Three members of the Philippines Baranggay Folk Dance Troupe, kindly showed me around Intramuros and introduced me to the life and times of José Rizal. I spent a day just outside Manila and went to Corregidor Island where I was reminded how cruel mankind can truly be. My visit to the National Museum rounded off my trip giving me a wonderful insight into the long rich cultural heritage of the Philippines.

It was really a whirlwind tour of the Philippines. I don't know when, but one day I intend to return to the Philippines, maybe longer next time.

The Journey, not the Destination: The codes on land and in the air

Judith Balares-Salamat



Going places: Angel and Karlo will take you there



Angel's family share the journey with him.

“DASAL LANG AT TIYAGA”

Prayers and perseverance are two of the words that I picked from two kababayan who are in the travel industry.

I'm lucky to have 'virtually' met Angel Castillo Viernes, a native of Claveria, Cagayan and a local of Quezon City, Philippines, now a resident of Brooklyn, Wellington, who has been in the taxi industry in Wellington for over 27 years now. I also talked with Karlo Camacho, who is relatively new as a flight attendant, having worked in this job for about eight months. Perhaps, their being Filipinos, steeped in spirituality and with determined characters, has added to the unique essence of *dasal* at *tiyaga* in their daily grind.

Angel practises discipline not only with his exercise routine and his diet, but also with his earnings, seeing to it that he has something saved for the 'rainy days.'

Karlo, on the other hand, practised patience and perseverance, waiting for the right opportunity until he finally got his job at Qantas servicing trans-Tasman flights. But before he got it, he was not ashamed to land cleaning and housekeeping jobs. He also tried his hand at being a security guard, a porter and a receptionist, before this childhood and ultimate dream came true—being a flight attendant. Now, he is reaping what he has sown.

THE JOURNEY THAT MATTERS.

I cull this from Ernest Hemingway's statement that many of us have heard about—that the destination matters less, the journey matters more.

For Angel, the journey may be in the form of being his own 'boss' or the flexibility of working hours. It could be the long hours during scheduled rugby games in Wellington—not that he's complaining because those too have their own perks and rewards. For Karlo, the journey may be in the form of attaining his dream to 'travel' or 'fly'. Those are on good days.

On other days, Angel could be dealing with passengers who were drunk or who would not pay for their fare. For Karlo it could be rude passengers, looking after sick or disabled passengers, or someone arguing with them. What about? Well, for being told off for standing up before the seatbelt sign was switched off. It might be a small thing for us passengers but Karlo said, "safety is our priority". Besides, it is his job to address that.

A job in the travel industry is not just about taking people from one place to another. It's about meeting lots of people from all walks of life too. That is obviously a part of the deal. For a few minutes or a few hours, they spend time together sometimes quietly, awkwardly but occasionally they do get to know their passengers a bit better. While celebrity passengers make for a memorable trip, it is having fellow Pinoys that are always interesting. Karlo says that he wears a Philippine flag pin on his lapel and whenever a kabayan sees that their faces light up with a smile and that gets the conversation going.

THEIR JOURNEY IN THE FUTURE.

When asked whether they would still be in the same job 5–10 years hence, both Angel and Karlo said "Yes."

Angel sees himself driving on the road for another seven or eight years, although he looks forward to his retirement with his family. Karlo plans to stick to his dream job that makes him literally and figuratively 'fly'.

COMPANIONS IN THEIR JOURNEY.

Angel and Karlo believe that they could not have been with their respective jobs now without the support of people who have prayed and shared their love with them. Angel is surrounded by his family—his wife Jo, a Registered Nurse, and two daughters, a grandson and son-in-law who help him steer his life's direction. Karlo's family in New Plymouth, friends in Wellington and choirmates from the Wellington Filipino Community Choir make him 'fly' but keep his feet firmly on the ground.

THE CODES: PRAYER AND PERSEVERANCE.

Angel always prays for a hassle-free travel, although nowadays, he has learned to laugh out odd incidents, such as non-paying or drunk passengers. These kinds of passengers used to give him much stress but not anymore. Karlo expressed that he offers lots of prayers for every single flight's safety and guidance. Both Angel and Karlo believe that, apart from fervent prayers, it is dedication, courage and perseverance that are indispensable to their respective jobs. They are Angel's fuel and GPS and Karlo's life vest and oxygen mask, not only for their individual jobs but also for life.

Their literal destinations may always be clear and known, but their journeys in between are very much full of surprises.

A Passion for Art

Noel Bautista



"Young and Old"



Work in progress.



John, Chia and Ryu.



Alice in Wonderland painting

Part of the migration equation is in many cases, out of need or out of speed, you leave a little of your career behind. Lucky of course are those who get called overseas because of their vocation, but a lot of us either make the lateral move to become a more desirable migrant candidate, upskill to take jobs our hosts no longer want, or in extreme cases start a whole new career much like the whole new world that we migrate to.

This neither-here-nor-there duality was the dilemma of our kabayan Chia Rodriguez-Rubio, who coincidentally has been part of the Wellington KABAYAN family for over two years, giving her whole heart and mind to every issue she has been involved in.

Sure, as a fine arts graduate from one of the best universities back home (University of Santo Tomas), she had a ticket to more than a few choice jobs in Wellington: graphic designer, creative department staffer, and advertising artist, which are incidentally three jobs that she's combined in one for Independent Herald, an overachieving Wellington community newspaper.

But what Chia really wanted to be, and what she wants to be to this day, is to be a free-wheeling, unrestricted artist, in the most general sense of the word.

She feels most at home with strong colours, textures, and expressions in her paintings, which by the way, you can check out in Artflakes.com.

What she doesn't feel at home with, ironically, is the term artist especially when it's fixed next to her name. Despite her obvious talent. "I'm scared to call myself an artist. It's like claiming a title that you're not even sure you deserve," claims Chia.

This comes as a surprise to the interviewer, since a lot of her works are aesthetically pleasing, visually arresting, and to be frank about it, vividly expressive, almost like a prism of the painter's colourful emotions. "I always try to think of something new, something that's never been done before."

Chia draws from a gamut of inspiration for her art, ranging from the classic approach of her grandfather who was an artist himself, to the sleek, ultramodern approach of anime and comic art, inspirations that cover at least part of two generations (the previous and the present) as well as her own.

The result is a style one can call Chia's personal signature defying classification but at the same time universally compelling.

For now though, what occupies Chia's time is her job as graphic designer at the Independent Herald and her family, specifically her son.

When asked if she would be an artist for a living, she says "Yes!" without batting an eyelash, "that would be great!"

Face God

Dinna O' Meara



Walking along Lambton Quay, Christmas decorations are popping up everywhere!

It should be hard to miss Christmas. But many will, even with all the advertising given to it, and all the promotions and publicity focused on the season. Even most of us who may think we know what the season is all about, can miss it too. We will miss it because the true meaning of Christmas has been buried under the excitement of its celebration. The meaning has become blurred and obscured by all the trappings that come with it. Over the years, the Christian concept of Christmas has been slowly disappearing into the background.

As Filipinos, we do know how to celebrate Christmas, after all the Philippines is known to have the longest Christmas season. You can already hear Christmas carols as early as September, and the season extends way beyond December, until the Feast of the Three Kings, which is on the first week of January.

Our Christmas traditions are very much a reflection of our Christian faith - the Simbang Gabi (early morning mass), the Parol (Christmas lantern) which symbolises the star of Bethlehem, the Belen (Nativity Scene), the Pamasko or Aginaldo (Christmas gift), and our Noche Buena (dinner after the midnight mass). I have enduring and wonderful memories of these traditions with my close friends and family! These are traditions, I believe, we should continue to observe and pass on to future generations. Although there is also a danger of getting overly familiar with these and we adopt this "we've seen it before; done it every year" attitude.

For us who believe, Christmas is the birth of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. It is a great demonstration of His love for all of us. Isaiah 9:6 says... 'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His Name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Might God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' This is the reason why we celebrate Christmas. It is about truth, hope, peace and love.

There will be lots of excitement for sure around us, as Christmas draws near. Let us be careful not to be caught up by all the activity around the celebration that we end up missing the message of the season.

It's often said, that Jesus is the Reason for the Season. Yes! HE is indeed! So this Christmas, however you want to celebrate it, a time alone with some much needed rest and relaxation, or with your friends and family, spare some time to reflect on the message this season brings. And perhaps, before we post the photos of the celebrations on Facebook, we should Face God first.

Have a very Merry Christmas everyone!

God loves you!

Sagot ni Kuya

Hello K,

Unang una salamat sa sulat mo ha. Nagulat ako nung nakuha ko kasi di ka naman pala-sulat eh. Pero natuwa ako, dahil nasabi mo ang mga gusto mong sabihin na hindi mo nasasabi sa personal.

Salamat din sa pagbati mo sa akin sa kaarawan ko. At lalong salamat dahil alam mo pa rin yung dahilan kung bakit natin ipinagdiriwang ito, kahit alam kong marami na ang nakakalimot. Pero hindi ako naniningil sa mga utang mo ha, dahil talagang binigay ko sa iyo yan, walang kapalit. Ang hiningi ko lang sa yo ang tanggapin mo yung regalang yon, at maniwala ka lang sa akin at sa mga pangako ko sa yo.

Di ba pangako ko sa yo hindi kita pababayaan, o iiwan? Kahit hindi tayo magkita o kahit magalit ka sa akin o hindi maniwala, hindi ako bibitiw sa yo. Hawak kita, kahit sa tingin mo hindi kita pinapansin o natutulog ako.

Maganda yang pakay mong tumulong sa mga kapatid mo lalong lalo na sa mga nangangailangan ng tulong ko. Sa pamamagitan mo at mga iba mong kapatid maipaparingit ko ang tulong ko sa kanila.

Ang bonus dyan, gagaan ang pakiramdam mo at makakalimutan mo ang sarili mong kahirapan o kaya malalaman mo na hindi pala problema ang problema mo.

Huwag mo akong alalahanin kung walang magbigay ng regalo sa akin sa kaarawan ko. Hindi ako naghahanap ng ganon. Pero ang hiling ko lang siguro yung kayong magkakapatid ang magbigayan ng aginaldo. Hindi kailangan ng marangya o malaking aginaldo. Magpakita lang kayo na nagmamahalan, nagmamalasakit, nagpapakumbaba, nagkakaunawaan at pinagpapahalagahan ang isa't isa, yan ang aginaldong walang kapara sa mundo. Makakamit mo rin ang mapayapang buhay, sa kabila ng kahirapan o panggugulo sa mundo.

Hintayin kita sa Sabado o Linggo, kung kailan ka pupunta sa bahay ko. Magkwento ka, magsumbong, magsabi ng kahit anong bagay. Ang importante, magkikita tayo at magkakausap. Mahal kita, sana lagi mong tatandaan yan. Ang kapakanan mo lang ang aking hangad.

Sa 'yo magpakailanman,

Kuya

Twelve round-shaped fruit (and food) at my dining table on New Year's Eve

Matilde Tayawa-Figuracion



Apples, grapes, oranges, strawberries, kiwifruit, cherries, nectarines, pears, peaches, blueberries, blackcurrants and watermelons; they are the usual 12 round-shaped fruit (though some of them are not necessarily round) in season here in New Zealand that I usually have at my dining table on New Year's Eve. In the Philippines, I would have the locally grown fruits like mango, *guyabano*, mangosteen, *kalamansi*, banana, pineapple, star apple, *buko*, *chesa*, avocado, along with other imported fruit.

Having these 12 (I usually have more than 12) of these round-shaped fruit at my dining table is a tradition that I have practised even when I was still in the Philippines. It is a tradition that most Filipino families practise wherever they are in the world.

But what is significant about the round-shaped fruit and the number 12?

A round-shaped fruit is associated with money, in particular, coins. This signifies prosperity and abundance. The number 12 refers to the 12 months in the calendar year. Simply put, the 12 round-shaped fruit may signify abundance and prosperity throughout the year.

In addition to preparing round-shaped fruit on New Year's Eve, Filipinos also serve round-shaped food like *palitaw* (flat rice cake). But more than just being round, *palitaw* has made it to the New Year's list of food because of how it gets cooked. When you drop the rice cake in boiling water, it naturally sinks to the bottom of the saucepan. As it cooks, it floats to the top. This is how it got its name—from the Filipino word '*litaw*', which means 'to float.' At the start of the year, you will be eating something that 'rose to the top' and hopefully it will bring you good luck for the new year.

Traditionally served during special occasions, *palitaw* is easy enough to do so you won't need to wait for that special day. The only challenge is probably finding the freshly grated coconut. You'll find this pre-frozen and grated in your local Asian store but if you're really keen, you can buy the mature coconut in supermarkets. Be prepared to grate it yourself. Mind you, this is the best way to enjoy *palitaw*. Try the recipe on the right (based on Panlasang Pinoy, by Vanjo Merano).

Enjoy!



INGREDIENTS (SERVES 4)

2 cups glutinous rice flour
1 cup water
½ cup sugar
½ cup sesame seeds, toasted
1 cup grated coconut

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Combine the glutinous rice flour with water and mix until a dough is formed.
2. Scoop out about two tablespoons of dough then roll it into a ball.
3. Flatten the ball-shaped dough using the palm of your hands. Roll the rest of the dough in the same way.
4. Boil water in a cooking pot (or saucepan) then put in the flattened dough. (You can put several dough into the pot at the same time just don't overcrowd them.)
5. When the flattened dough starts to float, use a slotted spoon to remove it from the pot and set it aside allowing water to drip.
6. Mix the toasted sesame seeds and sugar together
7. Roll the rice cake on grated coconut then on the sugar-sesame seed mixture.
8. Arrange in a serving platter then serve.

"Ang nakalipas ay ibabalik natin... hmmm"

Meia Lopez



A special autograph on RJ's guitar



Rey with She and Lev Kavinta of Silhouette Productions NZ Ltd., the producers of the show.



Rey's songs make him the champion of the underdog



Super funny, Superman (or is that Karate Kid?)



Rey with the stage crew

It was one big karaoke session with over 600 of your barkada singing along with you. That was exactly how it felt at the concert and only somebody like Rey Valera could pull off a feat like that.

He sang hit song after hit song spanning 37 years of being in the music industry - *Tayong Dalawa*, *Sinasamba Kita*, *Pangako sa Yo* and the very catchy song that goes "ah haha ah haha ah haha ah haha ah haha la la" which I later found out was actually entitled *Kumusta Ka*. So the sing-along was inevitable. And highly enjoyable. Those in the audience who grew up in the Philippines in the groovy 70s and 80s certainly remembered his songs and quite possibly triggered memories of a loved one, a lost love or even a soulmate.

That night, we caught a glimpse of the man behind the songs.

Simple, eloquent and honest lyrics, smooth melodies, and pure and effortless singing have made Rey a great OPM artist. But it all starts with the lyrics. To me, being able to empathise with the audience is his greatest gift. "Ang inspiration ko ever since palaging yung mga tao pa rin. I put myself in someone else's shoes. Ang nangyayari you and that person become one. So hindi na ikaw si Rey, ikaw na yun. Pag nilagay mo ang sarili mo doon, ma-uunderstand mo kung ano yung predicament niya. That way hindi ko na sya iju judge, meron ng forgiveness. Pag nagkakaroon na ng forgiveness, nagkakaroon na ng love. At pagka pinakawalan mo na yung kanta nagkakaroon ng buhay yon eh dahil hindi mo na kanta yon eh. Sila na yon eh. Sasabihin nung mga nakakarinig, ako yon ah. Istorya ng buhay ko yon ah."

He writes for others and about others but there is one song about him. *Ako si Superman*, a song dedicated to his wife Ditas, talks about his desire to make it big in show business and in life. Ironically, making it big made him a victim of a nasty Rey Valera wannabe. An impersonator did very bad things in his name. It seemed unfair that at the height of his career he had to lie low and shift to scoring movies (which he was good at). Meanwhile his songs have endured through the years and have in fact made a comeback as the score to many movies and tele-serie. Three decades later, he is still Superman.

What we didn't know was that he was super funny. Yes, it was a revelation to all of us at the concert. His jokes, albeit occasionally green, had the audience laughing (the thigh slapping, feet stomping and arm waving type). He knew his audience well and played to their *kiliti*. That was a masterclass. "Yung mga tao parang nabubulag mo. Parang lang. Mukha kang guapo. Haha. Pag masaya yung crowd, masaya ka rin. Pero hindi nila alam na pagbalik mo sa hotel nandoon ka sa isang sulok, madilim, nagbibilang ng pera ganun. Haha"

Hay. Pinoy humour. Tsk tsk. What is there to say?

Only that Rey Valera and his music can and will stand the test of time. His songs will forever be a part of the Pinoy music culture. His way of giving back is to pass on his song writing and scoring skills to the younger generation. He's done this before and given the opportunity, he'd do it again in a heartbeat for an industry that he loved and the audience that loved him back in return.

An Impossible Dream

Flora Muriel Nogoy
Chairperson Bulwagan Foundation Trust



The Filifest kids in their colourful costumes entertained the guests



The hardworking Bulwagan Foundation Trustees - Dinna O'Meara, Flora Nogoy, Judith Mendoza and Oddie Madrisa

It certainly felt that way when Bing Eguna (Christine E. Pangaruy) and Dinna O'Meara first approached me about a hall for the Filipino community. I wasn't sure if it was something I really wanted to be involved in but at the same time I knew that if my God was in it then I better do something even in a small capacity. I had no ambition to lead this project. Little did I know that it would become a journey of discovery — seeking His vision for the community and learning to trust God all the way. Personally I believe the reason we (Filipinos) have been brought to New Zealand is to fulfil a higher purpose. We are to be salt and light, to give back to the country that we now live in, a country that opened its doors to us to give us new opportunities where we can live in peace and prosper.

As a group of us started planning, we realized the hall had to have a bigger purpose otherwise, the community could simply rent halls already available. I recalled the story about Abraham and Sarah in the bible.

"Abraham 94 years old wakes up one morning, shakes his wife, and says:

"Sarah!"...Can't you see it?

"What is it Abe?"

"I just had a vision"

"What kind of vision, Abe?"

"We're going to create a new humanity, a new epoch in human history. We are going to create the human race all over again!"

Poor old lady.

"How's this new humanity start, Abe?"

"Glad you asked, Sarah."

Well, if you don't think God's got a sense of humour, picture this: it's in the scripture that Abraham left the Chaldeans with his wife Sarah, not knowing where he was going! Get the picture! This old guy on a walker, going down a dusty road with his 92 year old pregnant wife next to him.

"Where are you going Abe?"

"I don't know."

"What are you going to do when you get there?"

"I don't know."

"Then why are you leaving Abe?"

"Because God has given me a vision. God has given me a VISION!"³

³Tony Campolo Sermon "Committed to Hope" 2102 16/05/10



"To foster a stronger Filipino community by building a place we can call our home" Kayang kaya basta sama sama!

Proverbs 29:18 says, "...where there is no vision, the people perish..." There is so much truth to this verse. After all is said and done, what will carry any project through if there is no vision? The Bulwagan Foundation Trust has been working extremely hard with the community. Putting other community needs first is often times backbreaking.

We experienced such obstructions and conflict from our own community that we questioned ourselves and considered giving up. But, at a time like this, we learned to keep our eyes on God and the vision that kept us resolute.

The moments that made it all worthwhile are when a child donated her pocket money she had been saving and a member of our elderly community would save and give what she could ill afford. It was the generosity of so many people that touched our hearts and encouraged us.

The breakthrough came in the form of the support given by H.E. Virginia H. Benavidez our beloved Ambassador, the Philippine Embassy, connections forged through our involvement outside the Filipino community and our Maori connections that saw our hearts and shared our vision. We are truly blessed by these connections and I believe these will prove beneficial long term for everyone.

In the end regardless of how grand a legacy anyone leaves, Charles Stanley wrote that "the only true lasting and worthwhile deeds are those for the Lord in the power of His Spirit." The Filipino Community Centre is after all the Lord's for our enjoyment. The challenge to you is, are you willing to be part of this vision?

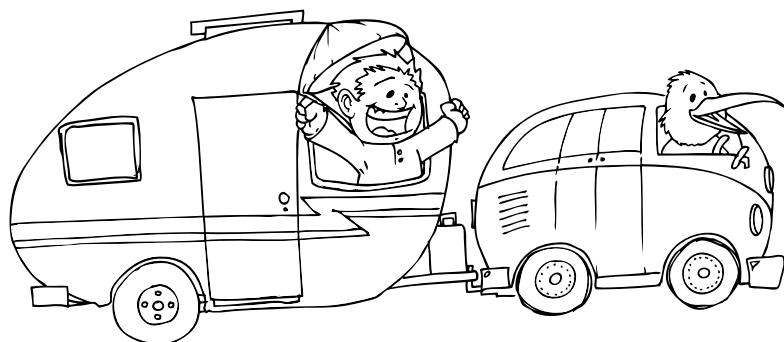
"To foster a stronger Filipino community by building a place we can call our home – A home that not only serves our current needs as a community, but one that will instill pride for the future generations of Kiwipinos, in our values and our heritage as Filipinos."



Fr Danny Cipriano leads the prayers.

Hey kids, Colour in this picture!

Mikey Javier



UPCOMING EVENTS

SIMBANG GABI

7:30PM, 15-23 December 2015
Sacred Heart Church Petone
41 Britannia St, Petone

DAY 1

15 Dec, Tuesday

St. John the Baptist

Spring of life Fellowship

DAY 2

16 Dec, Wednesday

St. Anne

KPFY

DAY 3

17 Dec, Thursday

St. Bernadette

SBFCC

DAY 4

18 Dec, Friday

St. Patrick Lorenzo Ruiz

Sta Maria Assumpta

DAY 5

19 Dec, Saturday

Santo Rosario

Sta Teresa Chaplaincy Choir

DAY 6 (5:30)

20 Dec, Sunday

Our Lady of Lourdes

FilCoro

DAY 7

21 Dec, Monday

St. Francis Xavier

Tawa Choir

DAY 8

22 Dec, Tuesday

Santa Teresa

Community for the Holy Family

DAY 9

23 Dec, Wednesday

St. Michael

KPFY

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

7:00PM, 24 December 2015
Sacred Heart Cathedral
40 Hill St, Thorndon

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Henrietta joined the industry in the summer of 2007 which marked the beginning of a flourishing and successful career in Real Estate.

She shares her success with her family who have played an essential role with their continued support.

Henrietta has continuously delivered with consistent achievements since the beginning. She loves the challenge of helping sellers realise a successful sale and helping buyers find their dream home.

She sells properties under Leaders Real Estate. If you are thinking of selling your house or buying a house then she can help you. Give her a call.

Free Appraisals and property advice are always available FOR FREE, just make an appointment.

Kabayan, si Heni po ito at your service. Tawag na!



What Others Say About Henrietta

V. Garnett (Vendor) - Henrietta was extremely kind, considerate, helpful and extremely professional.

N. Adip (Purchaser) - We were very happy with the service we received from Heni being our sales consultant. She was very honest and cooperative. She provided us with most of what we expected, especially in dealing with the few discrepancies that were in the house personally before we could proceed with the deal. It was our pleasure working with Heni.



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