

MAGAZINE FOR THE WELLINGTON FILIPINO COMMUNITY

KABAYAN

Summer 2018 • Issue No. 22

FREE COPY



**Paalam Papa Doy,
Paalam Rita**

**Knights
of Rizal**

**Study and live in NZ:
What you need to
know**

We would like to thank John Gutierrez whose creativity and crazy concepts for this section has always made me laugh. Although I don't think I sound like Ben's Ma, I can certainly relate to her so much it is scary.

5:30 pm

< Messages

The good in goodbye

humour by John Gutierrez

Details

Yesterday 6:48 pm

"Ben and his Ma" is a humorous depiction of parenting and growing up in the 21st-century Pinoy household in New Zealand.

"Ben," his "Ma," and other characters in the story series are purely depictions and the stories depicted are completely fictional.

Ma, remember when I told you about wanting to become a manager?

Oh y is that?

Well, I got a job

OMYGAD

I will call junjun 4 d lechon

R u free dis weekend?

U can afford to see me and ur dad more na

Thanks Ma, the only thing is it's overseas

HA

Y DJDNT COULD TELL ME DIS BEFORE???

Ma, calm down

Ma?

Today 5:15 pm

Sorry I couldn't tell you earlier, things just got so busy and this came unexpectedly. Danica and I agreed about this, the new environment will be good for us. You know how small our town is and it's time for a change. It's not yet forever, but if it's meant to be, we'll be back.

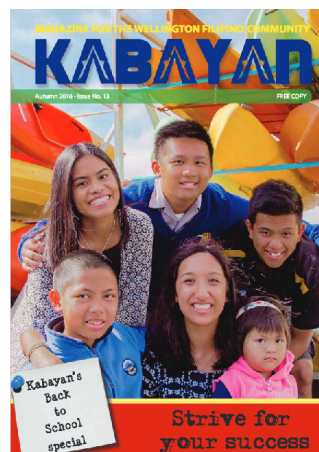
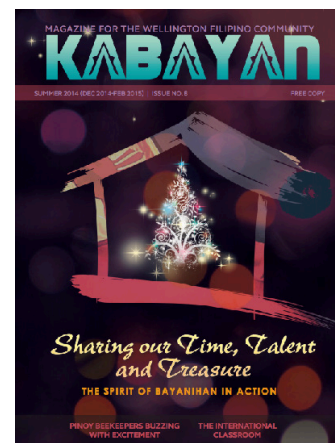
I know, I was just surprised

I want you to be happy, and Danica

I know ma, There's always Skype. For now, I've called JunJun - see you this weekend :)

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Pause

This is it – Kabayan's last issue for the year. Kabayan's last issue for now. Kabayan is on Pause.

We've had a good run for five years. But right now, our team needs to sit back, enjoy the sun (when it decides to come out) and recharge. Producing a free publication by a team of volunteers was no mean feat. There were lots of late nights and weekend work. There were sponsors to approach, photoshoots to organise and events to attend and write about afterwards. There were articles to write, contributors to follow up and research to do. All these while doing our day jobs or studying in school or at uni. So with a grateful heart I say thanks to:

- Didith Tayawa who started it all. She asked if I could edit a newspaper. When I heard this, I nearly choked. A magazine was more to my liking so thanks for the opportunity to edit Kabayan. I privately call her (not anymore) Action (wo)man. She makes things happen, that's why.
- The Kabayan team of writers - Judith, Noel, Johnny and our regular contributors and guest editors
- Our graphic artists and photographers
- All the members of the community who wrote and shared their stories with us – Kabayan is for you and by you
- Friends who distributed our magazines and to all the shops owners who let us leave some copies at their shops
- PinoyStop for hosting our online copies on their website
- Our sponsors for covering our printing costs
- The Kabayan team's families and friends, especially the Young Once who supported us through the years
- Clark Figuracion for being there for Didith (and feeding us)
- My daughter who sometimes checked my work (baligtad na?), became my PA and never complained about the extra work I did at home
- The Lord God for the strength to carry on and inner peace.

Kabayan was our way to connect with each other in the community, connect with our heritage and culture, and connect with our future in New Zealand. I'd like to think that we have achieved that.

Kabayan needs a new perspective, fresh legs on the field so to speak. I hope somebody or some group will press Play again. As for me, I'll put up my feet for now.

What an honour to have worked on Kabayan! I look forward to one day reading Kabayan's version 2.0.

Maraming salamat po.
Meia

In this issue, we feature the chartering and knighting ceremony of the Wellington Chapter of the Knights of Rizal. We pay tribute to Papa Doy and Rita de Mesa who both passed away last July. Papa Doy was our very loyal supporter and contributor, and Rita was Reine's (one of our graphic designers) mother. For our last recipe, we are doing kababayan, of course. There are heaps more articles in this issue so ...

Read on, Kabayan.

KABAYAN

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KAPITI COAST PINOY DROP-IN CENTRE

By: Evita McGuire

As part of its Outreach Ministry and as a way of connecting with the disparate groups of Filipinos in the Kapiti Coast, the Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta (BSMA) started a drop-in centre for Filipinos in the Kapiti Coast. Many Filipinos who live in the coast are nurses, caregivers, people in the elderly care industry, retail staff, and workers in the construction or telecommunication infrastructure industries. These industries operate on a twenty-four hour rotation or shifts that require long hours, not the traditional 8-5 workday. Thus, it is not easy to bring many Filipinos together for events or functions.

Contacting the majority of the community is an unenviable task because we are not fully aware of all the Filipinos living here. There is also a portion of transient Filipinos using the Kapiti Coast as their first stop towards moving to other major centres in New Zealand. Discovering new arrivals in the area is a priority. We understand that a big portion of them have support groups or network of friends from the industry they work in. Capturing the outliers who come on their own or normally with Kiwi husbands or partners is a major concern. So the idea of a drop-in centre where any Filipino can come and have a chat, coffee or share stories with other Filipinos was born.

The first gathering was held in April 2018. We planned to connect with one group of Filipinos at a time for a more personal approach. This way the BSMA members have time to chat and get to know each individual. The aim was for previous attendees to tell their friends and spread the word to the larger Filipino community. Perhaps because of the lack of advertising, the initial gathering did not attract many people but one new couple came. The Filipino wife was exactly the type we were after – someone who's recently arrived, everything in New Zealand was new to her and she was ready to meet other Filipinos.

Like most projects geared towards connecting with a migrant community, the BSMA expected a slow uptake for the drop-in centre. One new Filipino attendee at a time was not surprising. We had a better attendance during our second gathering in May. A group of Filipino men and a Filipina with her young daughter joined us then. We were excited at the turnout for our second gathering that we decided to make this a regular event for this year. It was evident that this gathering, especially when it becomes better known in the community, would contribute to a better connection among the Filipinos in the Kapiti Coast.

These occasions also strengthen our own camaraderie as Barangay Santa Maria Assumpta members. As a group with varying skills and areas of interests, we strive to help our fellow countrymen in their newly adopted country.

The drop-in centre is open to all Filipinos. If there are people travelling around New Zealand and happen to be in Kapiti at 10 am on a fourth Sunday of the month, the BSMA will be very delighted to welcome you for a chat, coffee or just a laugh.



Inter Barangay Tournament Wellington celebrates

By: Nieva Lim

FIVE YEARS OF BASKETBALL

When we talk about what Pinoys like, three things come to mind – adobo, karaoke and basketball. Even if we are over 8,000 kilometres away from home, we still get to enjoy them all. In Wellington, a group of sports enthusiasts have started a basketball league. Here's a timeline of how it all began.

2014

Sonny Santos, Migs Tolentino, Lito Magadia & Nieva Lim thought of having a mini Wellington basketball league before Labour weekend. With the strong backing of the Wellington Filipino Sports Association (WFSA), 'WFSA Inter Barangay' started on the Sunday of the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Inter Barangay Tournament Wellington became an independent group while keeping their WFSA affiliation.

Nieva coordinated sponsorships while Sonny and Migs organised entry teams with WFSA members Chris Pintor and Jay Gotico. The Inter-barangay Tournament Wellington became a family basketball entertainment event. Aside from the basketball games, there was Filipino food on sale and even a movie marathon.

The winning team is memorialized for posterity on the Tibiao Shield. Tibiao Caterers have been a long-time supporter and sponsor of the tournament. The organisers raise funds through raffles to help players offset travel expenses for the annual Filipino community reunion during the Labour Weekend.

2015

2016

2017

2018

With the growing success of the tournament, the organisers wanted to play the blessing forward by extending the tournament to two days. Our newly arrived kababayans are able to feel at home by playing and watching live basketball games. Twenty-four teams competed over the two days of the Queen's Birthday weekend. This is also the first time that the Wellington Basketball Association (WBA) had an exhibition game with Filipinos.

In the coming years, the weekend event will be at Walter Nash Stadium in Lower Hutt. The organisers' mission is to engage local communities' (non-Filipinos) basketball teams in the inter barangay basketball tournament.

FUTURE

Philippine Festival 2018

By Otto Christian Azucena

community **roundup**

The Philippine festival is an annual celebration organised by the Bulwagan Foundation Trust. This year's event called Fil-Trip 2018 was held at the Walter Nash Stadium in Lower Hutt on 2 June 2018.

The event was centered on the theme "Filipinos to the World". It is about opening to the world who we really are as Filipinos by showcasing our music, dances, food, love for sports, faith, culture and hospitality. It was an ambitious undertaking to start with and the goal was to put six different events in one day and to encourage as many Filipino organisations to work together.

We want to continue to make it a bigger event with the help of the Hutt City Council.

The success of this year's event was made possible through the support of Ambassador Jesus Gary Domingo and the Philippine Embassy staff, the National Commission of Culture and Arts of the Philippines, Hutt City Council, The Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe, Buklod, FiliFest, FilCoro, WFSA table tennis club, our sponsors, volunteers and all who came to the event.



Not Just Another Show

FilCoro's songs of Broadway concert on October 6th was definitely not just another show. The choir's powerful rendition of favourite Broadway songs mesmerised a full house crowd of 300 and even brought some to tears.

FilCoro is a Wellington-based Filipino choir directed by Mark Stamper.

The choir wowed the audience with a repertoire of songs that included "Climb Every Mountain" from The Sound of Music, "Somewhere" from West Side Story, and a medley of songs from Miss Saigon. Guest artists Chris McRae and Ellie Stewart complemented the choir's performances with their soulful interpretation of classic songs like "Gethsemane" from Jesus Christ Superstar and "Bad Idea" from Waitress. They also sang "A Million Dreams" from the movie The Greatest Showman.

The choir capped their performance with a Filipino song, "May Ibong Kakanta-kanta" as a tribute to their heritage and to acknowledge the support of the Filipino community who made up more than half of the audience.

The concert was sponsored by Bulwagan Foundation Trust.

By: Janette Doblas



Summer 2018

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Knights of Rizal

by: Sir Marcelo Esparas, Knight Commander of Rizal (KCR) Wellington Chapter

Rizalian's Year 2018-2020

A brotherhood of Filipinos that aims to uphold the same ideals as our national hero Dr Jose Rizal – that is the essence of the Order of the Knights of Rizal (KOR).

In 1911, fifteen years after the execution of Dr Jose Rizal in Bagumbayan, Colonel Antonio C Torres established the Orden de Caballeros de Rizal (Order of the Knights of Rizal) to honour the principles that Rizal stood for. Nine men from the country formed this original group. Five years later, on November 16, 1916 the Order of the Knights of Rizal (KOR) was incorporated as a private non-stock corporation.

On June 14, 1951, the order, to be known in English as 'Knights of Rizal' (KOR), was granted a legislative charter through Republic Act 646. This act recognised the Knights of Rizal as a legal civic and patriotic organisation instrumental in spreading the teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal 'to others who may believe in his teachings to the end that they may emulate and follow his examples'. Aside from being a civic and patriotic organization KOR is also cultural, non-sectarian, non-partisan and non-racial. It has demonstrated an unprecedented growth not only in membership but also in activities.

The Order has expanded considerably since the early 1950's with many chapters established all over the Philippines and in other countries. Membership is open to Filipinos and non-Filipinos.

On June 6th this year, Ambassador Jesus 'Gary' Domingo, Knight Grand Officer of Rizal (KGOR) and the Commander of the KOR Australia, New Zealand & Oceania Sir Cesar Bartolome KCR presided over the chartering and knighting ceremony for the Wellington Chapter of KOR.

The Wellington Chapter is the second chapter established in New Zealand. The Auckland Chapter was established last year. It is under the leadership of Sir Tony Noblejas KCR. while I, together with nine other members of the Wellington Filipino community and Philippine Embassy were knighted on the evening of June 6th. I serve as the Commander for the Wellington Chapter.



Oathtaking of the new knights, Wellington Chapter

Representatives from the Auckland Chapter and the families of our fellow knights attended the occasion. Here are some thoughts of our new knights on the meaning of the chartering and knighting ceremony.

"Rizal's objectives are as relevant now as they were before so it is an added responsibility for me in my work and in my private life to pursue those."

- Vice Consul Glenn Obach

"It is part of my cultural heritage. It is not just for the betterment of the Philippines but it is about following in the footsteps of Dr Jose Rizal. We are trying to promote peace through non-violent forms. We are trying to help our fellow countrymen improve their status, their lives. It is more the embodiment of what we would like to be as Filipinos."

- Marc Asilom

Reflections of KORs:

The KOR will study the teachings of Dr Jose Rizal with the aim of embodying these teachings when interacting with the community and doing civic work.

The Wellington Chapter is planning to:

- establish a library that contains several available copies of Rizal's works, letters, books and memorabilia. (With the help of our national office, we will coordinate the donation of books and literature about Rizal to libraries and other reading centres.)
- hold programs, assemblies, seminars, training sessions in primary and secondary schools and universities to promote an international understanding of Dr Jose Rizal's the words and deeds
- promote among the associated knights the spirit of patriotism and Rizalian chivalry by sponsoring competitions and recognising citizens for their outstanding achievements in the arts, sciences and their respective professions
- develop a sense of unity among the Filipinos in honouring the memory of Dr. Jose Rizal by erecting, if there be none, a monument, marker or bust of Rizal within the proper vicinity or locality (to be approved by local Council)
- help establish other chapters in towns and cities of Aotearoa such as Ashburton, Dunedin, Christchurch, Palmerston North and Levin
- organise and hold programs to commemorate Rizal's birthday on June 19 and martyrdom on December 30.

With all these planned activities, the Wellington Chapter are creating the following committees for KOR to maximise its resources and the coverage of its responsibilities:

- Executive Committee
- Public Issues/Publication/Research/Public Relations
- Finance/Fund-raising Campaign
- Legislative/Legal Affairs/Prefectural Tribunal/Protocol, Ceremonial & Heraldry
- Nomination/Visitation
- Esquires of Rizal/Kababaihan Rizalista & Kabataang Maka-Rizal
- Education/Seminars/Rizal Essay/Oratorical
- June 19/Dec 30th Celebration
- Social Action and Community Services



The knights with Ambassador Jesus 'Gary' Domingo, Knight Grand Officer of Rizal

Again, every member has a mission to fulfil - "to study the teachings of Dr. Jose Rizal, and to inculcate and propagate them among all classes of the people who would want to follow his teachings and examples." Rizal said - "God has not made anything useless in this world, as all beings fulfill or fill a role in this sublime drama of creation, I cannot exempt myself from this duty, and however small, I, too, have a mission to fulfill as, for example, alleviating the sufferings of my people."

The activities such as the Philippine Independence Day & the chartering of the KOR Wellington Chapter were successful due to the supervision of the Philippine Embassy and its staff, and the support from community organisations here in Wellington such as the Bulwagan Foundation Trust, Kasagip Charitable Trust, various migrants and multicultural groups.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Namamasyal pa sa Luneta...

By: Meia Lopez

If you can sing the next line and name the singer, we probably know a lot of the same things. If you have no clue, you probably grew up outside of the Philippines or you are ... young enough to be my daughter. Just so you know, this article is not about the song nor the singer. It is about Luneta.

When you ask Filipinos about Luneta or Rizal Park, one major event usually comes to mind – the execution of Dr Jose Rizal. However, Luneta is more than that. It is one of the major landmarks of Manila.

Luneta Park or simply Luneta is a 58-hectare urban park right in the heart of Manila. It is bound by Padre Burgos Avenue on the north, Taft Avenue on the east and Kalaw Avenue on the south. Roxas Boulevard cuts through the park on the west. The Quirino Grandstand and the Manila Ocean Park, which are on the other side of Roxas Boulevard, across from the Rizal Monument, are still part of Luneta.

We have put together some interesting trivia about Luneta. Did you know that:

1.

Luneta started its life as a small settlement outside the walled city of Intramuros. It was called Barrio Nuevo (new town) in Spanish or Bagumbayan in Tagalog in 1601. This area was cleared after the short British rule ended in 1764 and the open field came to be known as Campo de Bagumbayan. The Spaniards later built a military hospital and a small crescent-shaped fort called a luneta (hence the name Luneta Park) to protect Intramuros from attackers.

2.

The plans for a Rizal monument started in 1901 but the monument, designed by Swiss sculptor Richard Kissling, took over 12 years to complete in 1913. The monument is more than just a bronze sculpture of Rizal. It is also his final resting place. The Philippine Marine Corps' Marine Security and Escort Group guard the monument.

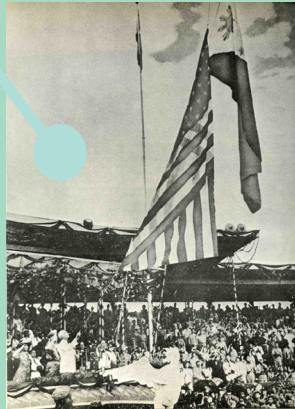
3.

Rizal was not the only person executed in Luneta; 158 people were executed there during the Spanish era including the three Filipino priests Frs Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora (also known as Gomburza). They were executed by garrote on February 17, 1872.



4.

The Independence Flagpole is found in Luneta. July 4, 1946 marked the Philippines' independence from the United States of America. On this day, the American flag was lowered from this flagpole and the Philippine flag was subsequently raised. It is the tallest flagpole in the Philippines measuring 45.72 m or 150 ft. This is the flagpole used every year for the June 12 Independence Day flag raising ceremony usually headed by the President or Vice President of the Philippines.



5.

Many national events and rallies have been held in Luneta. Three Popes have celebrated masses at the Quirino grandstand – Pope Paul the VI in 1970, Pope John Paul II in 1981 (for the beatification of San Lorenzo Ruiz) and 1995 (for the World Youth Day) and Pope Francis in 2015. (pictured below)



6.

The kilometer zero marker is in Luneta, just across from the Rizal Monument on Roxas Boulevard. This means that when we say Place X is so many kilometers away from Manila, we start measuring the distance from this spot.



7.

If you are in front of the Kilometer zero marker facing the Quirino grandstand, you will find two cast iron sculptures of iconic Philippine animals on either side of the marker – the carabao on the left and the tamaraw on the right. Both come from the same water buffalo family and represent strong, persevering and hardworking Filipinos. While the carabao is also found in other Asian countries, the tamaraw can only be found in the island of Mindoro. Look up their locations in the park on google maps.

8.

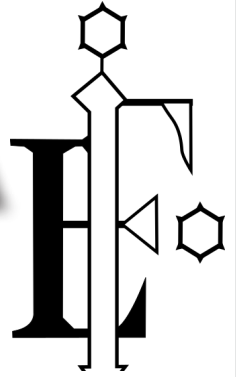
When you visit Luneta check out the large scale Light and Sound diorama depicting the last day of Dr Jose Rizal's life, visit the Manila Ocean Park behind the Quirino Grandstand and walk around the park. There are lots of nationally significant sculptures, markers and gardens to see.

While you are there, remember to have your picture taken at the Rizal Monument. Why? Because you can. But be sure to frame it in a way so that you don't have the photobomber building in the background.

LA LIGA FILIPINA

JOSE RIZAL'S LIGACY OF SERVICE

By: Geo Robrigado



When we think of Rizal we are all reminded of his death, his writings, or even his romantic escapades. We know that his writings sparked the Philippine revolution. But not a lot of people know that Rizal started the very first civil society group in the Philippines – La Liga Filipina. Established in July 1892 upon his return to the Philippines, La Liga Filipina brought together several of the Philippines' political and civil leaders, including Deodato Arellano, Apolinario Mabini, Graciano Lopez-Jaena, and Andres Bonifacio. La Liga picked up the pieces left behind by the defunct Propaganda movement which Rizal was also a part of. Seeking reforms from the colonial Spanish government in Manila, La Liga Filipina's aims as a civil society organisation were:

- to unite the whole archipelago into one vigorous and homogenous body
- to provide mutual protection in every want and necessity
- to defend against all forms of violence and injustice
- to encourage instruction, agriculture, and commerce
- to study the application of reforms.

Not surprisingly, Rizal's personal objectives in forming La Liga were geared towards education and emancipation of the Filipino masses. He sought to provide scholarships for deserving young people and legal aid to those who could not access the justice system. He supported loaning of capital and setting up of cooperatives for those who would like to engage in commerce and agri-business. It was obvious in his objectives that Rizal's passion for service to his fellow Filipino people were incorporated into the vision and mission of La Liga Filipina.

Funding of La Liga was based on a 10-centavo fee paid as monthly dues by each member. The purposes of La Liga's funds also were reflective of Rizal's passion for service.

La Liga used the funds in the following manner:

1. the member or his son who, while not having the means shall show application and great capacity, shall be sustained
2. the poor shall be supported in his right against any powerful person
3. the member who shall have suffered any loss shall be aided
4. capital shall be loaned to the member who shall need it for agriculture
5. the introduction of machines and industries, new or necessary in the country, shall be favoured
6. shops, stores, and establishment shall be opened where the members may be accommodated more economically than elsewhere.

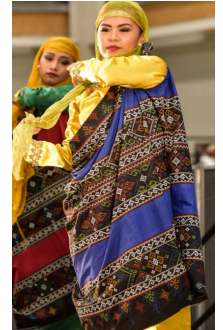
Clearly, these six funding objectives showed Rizal's heart of service – the Filipino shall serve his fellow Filipino.

Unfortunately, the Spanish government thought that La Liga was further evidence of the people's growing dissatisfaction and a means to oust them from power. On 6 July 1892, Governor General Eulogio Despujol ordered the arrest of Rizal and his subsequent exile to Dapitan in Zamboanga. Some members continued to support La Liga until its eventual disbanding. This led to Andres Bonifacio forming the Katipunan.

While La Liga was short-lived, the legacy that Rizal left through this organisation is far-reaching. The very first civil society group in the Philippines became the model by which modern civil society groups in the country operate – all thanks to Rizal's LIGACY of service.

Keepers of the Dance

By: Meia Lopez



It's not everyday that we see authentic Filipino dances being performed live for us Wellingtonians. At the Fil-Trip festival last June, we were lucky to have the Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe do just that.

It was the troupe's second time in New Zealand and we were glad they had come back and performed with our own Filifest. We talked to their president Nad Decena about his love for dance, our culture and the troupe's mission.

Ako si Ronald Decena taga Binondo, Manila pero nagtuturo sa Tondo. Magkapitbahay lang, hinahati ng CM Recto. Nad teaches contemporary Philippine arts from the regions for senior high school students - grades 11 and 12 at the Holy Child Catholic School.

I learned about Barangay from my teacher. Nad was still in high school when his teacher taught him some folk dances. "Nung napamahal na kami sa culture, arts, dances and music our teacher invited us to join Barangay. When I started at Barangay naisip ko 'ay ang galing nila. Ang ganda ng culture natin. I want to perform this.'" Joining the Philippine Barangay Dance Troupe meant he was in the company of people who not only loved to dance but who also did it to preserve Philippine dances.

Love talaga namin eh. Barangay is on a mission - to showcase the culture of the Philippines through dance in the most authentic way - from the movements, costumes and the intent of the dances. "Yung ibang mga Pilipino they are not aware of our folk dances kasi marami po they just watch clips on YouTube. Eh yung iba hindi po tama. Our founder, Dr. Paz Cielo Angeles-Belmonte went to the villages, researched and studied the dances and the people themselves."

We are very careful. "Meron pong nagpe-perform sa TV at pag mali po may mga tumutuligsa (criticise) sa kanila. People from that ethnic group would say, 'that is not our culture' o 'Hindi yan yung damit namin.' Kaya we are very careful about the costume. Wag mong isiping walang makakahalata. Hindi po dapat. We went to Koronadal and performed Manobo and Bagobo tribal dances to Manobo and Bagobo tribes in 2014. Nakakatuwa po sila kasi konti galaw lang namin nagrereact sila. Siguro po kasi nakikita nila na ginagawa namin yung kultura nila, na authentic, naappreciate nila."

Kami na po yung magpapasa ng mga natututunan namin. "I tell our students 'If you love hip-hop, pop, jazz, ballet - do it.' But I also tell them 'you also need to learn your own dances, songs and music. That's part of our repertoire.'" Nad says they learn to appreciate and love these dances eventually and when they do it's truly rewarding for him. "Nakakatuwa, nakakatouch kasi sasabihin nila 'sir thank you po kasi hindi po namin alam na ganito kaganda yung sining at kultura natin.'"

Nad won't admit it but he is an inspiration to his students. In fact, one of his students has decided to study Education at university. "Hopefully magturo din sya doon sa una kong pinagturuan sa Cavite. I'm so grateful kasi po may purpose, meron pong nangyari na hindi lang huminto doon sa itinuro sa kanya."

When you see Barangay perform, you are not just watching a simple dance performance. You are watching the legacy of the diverse cultures in our country being shown by the keepers of the dance.

By Matilde Tayawa Figuracion

Education trafficking was a hot topic that surfaced in New Zealand due to the many horror stories of exploitation, despair and even the suicide of students – Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike. Unscrupulous agents in the Philippines, India and other Asian countries, lured the students by over selling and over promising the benefits of studying as an international student in New Zealand.

But it was not all doom and gloom. There were success stories too like that of Heather and EJ. They are a tenacious, driven and persistent couple. Lady luck did not play a part in their success story because **they** made things happen. It wasn't easy but they overcame all the challenges in their way and became victorious in the end. We decided to share their story so that those who are bent on coming to New Zealand to study can pick up a lesson or two.

Research, research and more research. This sums up the key to their success story.

Heather Mathiong and EJ Omayan come from Cebu, Philippines. EJ's brother lives in Wellington so migrating to New Zealand was an easy choice. EJ's desire to migrate to NZ started in 2013 (even before he met Heather). He applied for a placement at Computer Power, a tertiary education provider in Wellington, was accepted and offered a place to study but this did not push through. He then considered migrating to London in 2015, this time with his partner, Heather. However, London was not meant for them either. At this point, they re-evaluated the option of a student pathway to come to New Zealand.

So, they started their research. They took advantage of the free seminars and consultation sessions run by many agents operating in Cebu. Cleverly, they obtained information free of charge. Armed with this information, they made the decision to pursue EJ's application for a student visa. "I almost memorised the contents of the Immigration New Zealand website," Heather quipped. "*Inalam ko talaga. Hindi lang basta-basta*," she added. She felt empowered by knowing first-hand the immigration policies that related to their situation. Both noted that all the information they needed was available on the immigration website. They suggested that for would-be applicants, the immigration website should be their first port of call.

Despite their extensive research, they still encountered many struggles and challenges.

Challenge #1: Where to get the money for EJ's tuition and course fees

The original plan was for EJ's brother and family in Wellington to sponsor his studies. However, his brother's sponsorship was not enough for Immigration New Zealand (INZ). INZ required the submission of a financial undertaking as proof of their capability to support his studies. For this, they submitted proof of business ownership, their savings, a joint bank account with EJ's parents and more evidence. Still INZ required proof of their financial capability. They were asked to deposit a certain amount in a New Zealand bank to cover his living cost while he was studying and to pay the full tuition fee upfront (which is thrice the domestic fee).

They also saved money from cross crediting a paper and a Cisco certification that EJ took and completed back in the Philippines before he started his course here. "We saved about \$3,000 by cross-crediting a paper," Heather said. Aside from the money saved, EJ also saved some time in completing his Diploma in Advance Network Engineering. Their advice for would-be IT students is to complete all CISCO certification in the Philippines since these papers are the most difficult to pass in New Zealand. When all of that was ready, EJ flew to Wellington while Heather stayed back in Cebu.

Challenge #2: It was very difficult to look for a student job

Under immigration rules, student visa holders are allowed to work 20 hours a week. EJ's plan was to work straightaway to avoid spending the money that his parents gave them. It still took him about three months to find a job.

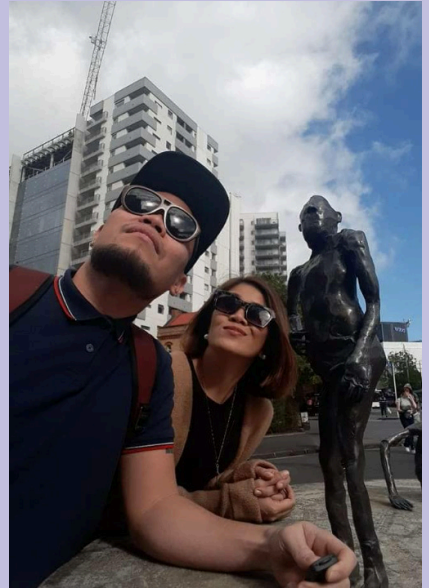
Challenge #3: Homesickness and stress

We've heard many stories of how an OFW battles homesickness. Heather and EJ's experience was no different. Luckily, technology helped. Despite the distance and time difference, they Skyped every day, ate together via Skype, even slept at the same time. Fortunately, Heather was able to negotiate a flexible working arrangement with her employer in Cebu.



Challenge #4: Heather's partnership work visa was declined due to a change in policy

When Heather eventually joined EJ in New Zealand, their original plan was for Heather to work so that EJ could focus on his studies. But this was no longer possible due to an immigration policy change. INZ declined Heather's partnership work visa application because their new policy had taken effect by the time she submitted her visa application. The new policy only allowed partners of students who study Level 7 degree courses to apply for a work visa. Since EJ was studying for a non-degree course, Heather did not qualify.



Challenge #5: Looking for a flat for couples

We all know that rental properties are hard to come by - no surprises there - but it was especially hard when searching for a place as a couple. Airbnb was their saviour. A day before Heather arrived in Wellington they found a room that was available only for two days. They had to transfer to another Airbnb while looking for a more permanent place to stay. Heather said that this was a mission. She searched online everyday, applied but was declined straightaway. After two weeks of relentless application, they were finally interviewed. They found a room via Vic Deals and now live with their Kiwi flatmates.



Challenge #6: Finding a job after graduation

Study – check, graduation – check, job – uhm... It took EJ three months to find a relevant job after being issued a Job Search Visa. Heather helped EJ find a job online. "My fulltime job was to search for a relevant job for EJ", Heather remarked. But even as she tailored every single job application to the companies' required competencies, EJ did not get interviewed. So they put their IT skills to good use and found an app online with an algorithm that showed the information in EJ's CV was not quite right. They changed his CV and eventually got shortlisted and interviewed. They also attended the Newcomers Programme run by the Wellington Chamber of Commerce. All of these strategies helped. What was disappointing was the lack of assistance from the school where EJ studied. Part of the services they paid for was for the school to help him find a job but they didn't even help him write a CV or a cover letter.

There were so many other minor challenges that the couple faced and overcame. How they got their respective jobs was another story worth telling. Suffice to say that both got their permanent jobs on the same day, jobs that now allowed them to enjoy a beautiful life in Wellington. As the saying goes, fortune favours the prepared mind (Louis Pasteur). This is so true in their case.

Kabayan's Writing Workshop



Kabayan magazine extended its community involvement by conducting a writing workshop last April. At the workshop, we gave our participants a challenge. We asked them to write a story, poem, news item – anything really - based on a few pictures we supplied them. The catch? They only had 10 minutes to write their pieces! Here are a few samples of our participants' work. Thanks everyone and well done!



The face of re-membling

Judith Balares Salamat

His clear and piercing eyes remind me of my father.
His furrowed forehead reminds me of my grandfather.
His wiry hair reminds me of my brother.
His sagging cheeks remind me of my grandmother.
His brown-seared face reminds me of my uncle.
He reminds me of my heritage.
He reminds me of what I am.
He reminds me to know who I am.

Fishing fed the family

By Robert Fernandes

What a day I had! I'd been fishing just off the coast of Botoon beach, sailing deep into the South China Sea. Where have the years gone? It used to be my regular fishing grounds, close to the Spratly Islands where the sea was rich in bountiful tuna fish. I, a poor fisherman, solely fish to feed my family with fish caught by traditional means, taking only what I require to last for a week. I am no match to the big fishing trawlers that come from overseas and plunder the sea with little regard to the environment.

However, recently these seas have been out of bounds due to disputed claims by several countries, but in particular China. The zone is being militarised curtailing my fishing ground. Tuna has been a prized catch fetching a handsome price. This had enabled me to feed and sustain my family. Life has dramatically changed. Fishing is what I have always done best. So what do I do next.....!



Ang maikling maikling kuwento ni Craig

By Craig Phillips



Emma and Rupert are on stage at their dress rehearsal of Romeo and Juliet. The play is being presented by a group of young people highlighting issues facing the younger generations today.

In this scene I feel Romeo (played by Rupert) senses something dreadful is about to happen to Juliet (played by Emma). [Romeo looks like he is beside himself with emotion. He looks very upset, very worried.]

The emotional qualities portrayed brought me to tears. Such a magnificent dress rehearsal performance.

Wellington now has its very own Filipino kulintang ensemble!

Kulintang music is traditional to the Southern Philippines, and consists of gongs and other forms of percussion. It often accompanies dance and is known for being improvisatory and virtuosic. Very exciting and powerful music can come from a small kulintang group, which is what attracted local musicians Carina Esguerra, Amber Madriaga, and Jack Hooker.

“It’s awesome to play music from pre-colonial Filipino culture, and to hopefully bring some live music to the local traditional dance scene” Carina says. “I was also so amazed at videos of, often older, women in the Philippines playing interesting melodies impressively fast! It’s inspiring to see such vibrant music of cultural significance played by women”. Carina studied Ethnomusicology at the New Zealand School of Music, and after years of playing music from other countries, and having danced Filipino dances to CD tracks with the Filifest dance group, she formed the Wellington Kulintang ensemble with Amber and Jack in 2017.

Amber says “From the first time I heard Kulintang I knew I just had to learn more about the music, and joining this group was the perfect chance to! There’s something almost magical about reviving beautiful

traditional (and virtuosic) music, a real first-hand experience into the Filipino culture. I hope to one day make this traditional music more available for people to play on accessible instruments such as the guitar.” Amber is currently studying classical guitar at the NZSM, and Jack is a musician and composer.

Since 2017 the group has received guidance from overseas, met with the Philippine Embassy to discuss musical projects, and had a workshop with the Philippine Barangay Folk Dance Troupe. They had their debut performance at Fil-Trip 2018 and are now inviting new players to join!

If you are interested in learning more, joining the group, or just attending a rehearsal for fun, please contact Carina Esguerra at Carina.Esguerra@gmail.com No experience necessary and all are welcome!



Amber Madriaga playing kulintang at Fil-Trip 2018



Jack Hooker, Carina Esguerra, and Amber Madriaga playing as the Wellington Kulintang ensemble at Fil-Trip 2018 in Taita

Rita De Mesa

10 SEPT 1968 - 6 JULY 2018

The Kabayan team join the Filipino community in remembering Rita's life. Rita's daughter Reine is one of Kabayan's graphic designers and photographers. We have put together excerpts from Reine's, Wilhelmina's (Rita's mum) and Fr Ron's eulogy during the funeral mass on 10 July 2018.

Reine's letter to her Ma

By Reine De Mesa

Hi Mama, how are you? I hope you're doing well.

(In her eulogy, Reine sang one of her mum's lullabies to her. This is her introduction to the song.)

... This was one of mama's lullabies to me when I was a baby. She would always sing me to sleep with this song, and now I think I'd have to sing you to sleep. It is one of our favorite theme songs together... It's You by Carpenters...

Words can never explain how much I miss you - your voice, your laugh, your radiant smile, and yes even when your eyes get big when you tell me off. No one's going to harmonise with me anymore when I sing but I know you are blessing the heavens with your beautiful voice. I would say that I'm sad, but I won't, because that's me being selfish. I just really miss you. My life will never ever be the same, without you physically here by my side Ma. We battled life through thick and thin, and with God's grace, I will continue to make you proud, 100 times more. Thank you for everything - your blood, sweat and tears, your unspoken sacrifices and hurts. I will continue your legacy to be the bravest, strongest and most passionate loving dragon warrior that God made us to be and that people have known you to be... and I thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for passing it on to me.

You trained me well master! It's the grasshopper's time to shine. I am okay, cause I know when I am ok, you are too...

I may have lost my best friend, my superwoman, my ally. But I know I gained an angel who will guide me all the more in the coming years of my life.

"The world is my oyster," right? But I know you will be my compass guiding me.

Till I see you again Ma, hugs to lolo and ninang for me. I am sure they are thrilled that you are home safe and sound, and at peace.

I love you more and more each day ma,
Forever and ever babe.

Love,
Your one and only Bweiney

Mommy Wilhelmina's message

By Wilhelmina De Mesa

Ritch was the second of my four children, was the only girl and had always been her father's daughter, than mine. They really had aspecial bond; they can communicate just by eye signals, body language. Despite being the only girl, she was able to manage her brothers to the max! She had a total respect for her kuya and was designated by the natural flow of things as the official baby sitter of the younger boys.

Ritch was the quiet brain of the four children. A typical scenario would be - she was quick to know when my late husband and I plan to go out. She would quickly whisper that we were about to go out to her kuya who would typically burst into a crying tantrum! Guess who gets to be scolded by me with matching pinches here and there. And Ritch? She would quietly watch from the corner. Because of the fuss, we usually re-schedule or cancel the date!

Ritch as a young girl (4 or 5 years old) kept her emotions to herself. She seldom cried. If she gets scolded (again mostly by me...did I mention she was her father's favourite?) and she felt it was unfair, she kept very quiet and would refuse to talk to me the whole day until I explain why she was scolded. Only then would she hug me back.

Ritch was always good in school, mostly through the prodding of her father. She graduated first in primary school, salutatorian in high school, was one of the top board placers in the national government exams for pharmacists. She is a loyal friend to a fault.

It must be the goodness of the community, the warm encouragement of friends in Masterpet, the love of Cheche & Ising, that my daughter bloomed and got involved in the area. You touched her life and Reine's.

You made her a better person, you shared her life to the fullest, and for that, I, her mother, am very grateful.

On behalf of her brothers and the rest of the family back home, many thanks to everyone! God bless you all! God is good!



Fr Ron's homily

By Fr Ron Bennett

... Our lives will indeed have its ups and downs. Rita experienced these, just like you and me do. But with her diagnosis, she experienced a huge challenge of faith. The readings that the family has chosen say something of that journey:

Lamentations 3/ 17-19: It is aptly named! It talks of hopelessness, helplessness, giving up, but also during despair, there is still hope.

1 Thessalonians 4/ 13-18: Paul is certain. He knows. He has the strongest faith. Rita's faith was like that also.

John 6/ 37-40: Words of confidence, given by Jesus before his own death – 'All that the Father gives to me will come to me and whoever the father gives to me I shall not turn away.'

...Just like the 12 Thai boys and their coach who were trapped in the cave - on the one hand their future seemed simple. Just walk out. But they soon realized that it was very unsafe, dangerous. They had to trust and hope that help would come from the other side of the cave, the world outside.

In the same way, Rita embarked on a journey. More difficult and perilous than we may ever go through. But her faith, her belief, was constant. It would see her through.

I believe she went through different stages. She wanted to beat it, overcome it. As the stakes got higher, so did her faith. But towards the end, she could give that complete surrender to God 'Whatever your will is for me, I accept.' True faith and trust...

Back to the boys... Imagine the difference between what they were going through - the impossible situation and the miracle of being out of the cave.

What Rita is now experiencing at the end of her tunnel – is so much more than that. She is now in the Light of God's presence for all eternity.

Let us learn from Rita's faith, as we continue to live our own faith journey.



TEODORO HELBANO

9 NOVEMBER 1926 – 5 JULY 2018

Everyone knew him as Papa Doy, ever smiling and with a memory that's sharper than most people we know. We have compiled some words shared in his honour, first by his grandchildren Monica and Maria (Marcy) and then a personal story of friendship from our own Judith Salamat.

Papadoy's ABCs

Papadoy not only taught us our ABCs for school. He has taught us the basic ABCs of life. So, in classic Papadoy fashion who was always playing with words, we thought he'd like to hear a little acrostic poetry from his seat upstairs, which summarises what we learnt from seeing Papadoy live out his ABCs.

A B C

He taught us to

A - Accept the challenges that come into our lives by being
B - Brave enough to
C - Charge ahead and carry on

D E

He showed us how to

D - Devote our lives to make the world smile by
E - Enthusiastically expressing excitement with an energetic hi-five, hug, thumbs up, wave, or salute.

F G

He taught us what it means to live a life of

F - Faith trusting in
G - God at all times.

H I J K

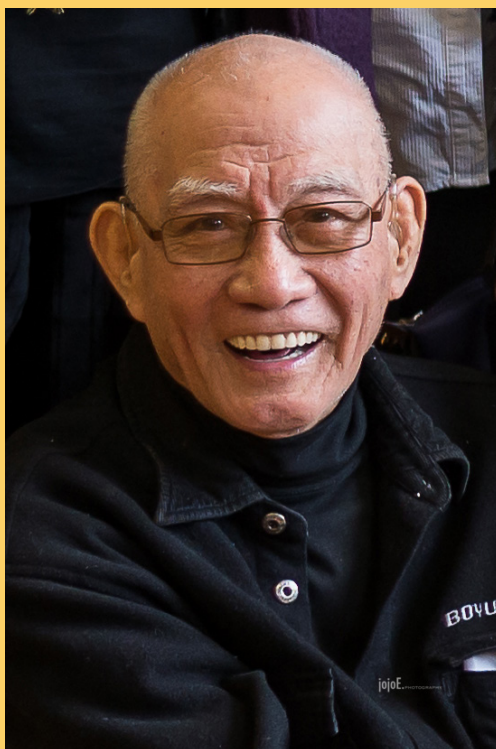
He showed us that living a life with a bit of

H - Humour and a lot of humility means getting rid of the
I - 'I' and discovering the
J - Joy in
K - Keeping our eyes fixed on the needs of our friends.

N O

Every day he showed us how to...

N - Never complain. Never criticise. Never raise a voice in frustration. Never compare with someone else, but instead
O - Occupy our mind with what will make others happy. Always outward looking.



L M

He showed us that the key to joy comes from

L- Living a life of loving... and for him this life of loving was firstly for God then for his one and only
M - Mamalit ... and music.

P

He taught us how important it is to foster...

P - Personal relationships with everyone. He treated each of us like celebrities as he'd always want a "picture, picture!" and he'd assign everyone a specifically engineered nickname. 'Boss', 'Number one', 'Elvis' and 'Mari-sell' just to name a few.

Q

He was also quick to praise others for their

Q - Qualities since he spotted them so easily.

R S

For him it wasn't prestige or success that was powerful, but

R - Remembering.

Remembering birthdays.

Remembering names.

Remembering dates and details that we ourselves had forgotten. It is because he remembered us so well, that we will remember him so fondly. We remember him and his radiant

S - Smile. Smiling when satisfied and smiling when suffering. Smiling because it's okay to be a little silly sometimes.

T U

He

T - Took us under his wing and quickly became our

U - Universal grandfather. A second lolo, or second father.

V

Then there were the

V - Videos. Endless versions of hand crafted videos for everyone.

His room became his movie production studio, storage warehouse, and post office, where by August he had his Christmas gifts personalised, wrapped, stamped and ready for distribution always keeping your very faces in mind as he put these together.

W X

He taught us that when you

W - Wholeheartedly forget yourself. You become an

X- eXample of what love really means... joyful self-sacrifice.

Y

He showed us that generosity without measure will keep you forever

Y - Young.

Z

Finally, behind every letter he taught us what it means to live with a

Z- Zest for life. Zipping in and out of each of our

lives with zero thought for himself.

PAPA DOY - FOUNT OF JOY

JUDITH BALARES SALAMAT

I met Papa Doy in Paparangi while waiting for Bus Number 55 going to Johnsonville. You see, he and Mama Lit (his late wife) used to live in a flat just across Paparangi School where I worked in 2011 and 2012. From that fateful afternoon a part of my heart already belonged to him.

Seven years passed and my family received lots of pictures, emails, a few social cards and even a couple of music CDs as a token from their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Through these exchanges of anecdotes and essays, jokes and laughter we learned more about each other's families. We saw each other at masses and other social events of the Bicolano and Filipino community. We both wrote for Kabayan, shared and mutually admired the articles we wrote (we were members of the Mutual Admiration Club).

Papa Doy, the once-widower of the late Mama Lit who died in August 2013, a very active member of the 'Young Once', the loving father of Tony and father-in-law of Brets whom he fondly called "my angel," the doting grandfather of five grandchildren was a friend and family to so many Filipinos. Both Papa Doy and Mama Lit became my adoptive grandparents and counsellors here in NZ.

Indulge me and let me share why I truly admired him. A tech-savvy nonagenarian - A “techie” in his 90s, he could still burn CDs, write e-mails, print photos and do other technical things that most people his age would not ever attempt doing. He enrolled in a basic computer course where unsurprisingly, he was the oldest in the group and his classmates were just out of high school. By the end of the course, everyone loved him and accepted him as being ‘cool.’

A very adorable husband to his dear wife Mama Lit. I witnessed so many times how he kept a spotlessly clean flat, cooked a basic meal, looked after Mama Lit when she was less mobile, and did all these things without any complaint.

Captivating eyes and a charming smile. Everyone who called him Papa Doy would agree that, apart from his eye for details, he would always literally look with his captivating eyes and wear his warmest smiles. In Filipino, one would call him “talagang makarinyo” and, believe it or not, he possessed a gentle demeanour that would always pass the standards of royalty.

A man of faith. Even with some pains here and there, he wouldn’t complain to God and he would always be an advocate of his Christian faith. He would bravely beat rain or shine, summer or winter with Brets so he could attend the daily masses in Tawa. Nonetheless, this kind of faith was unquestionably the source of his selfless service, his warmth and light-heartedness.

Broadminded or progressive thinker. He expressed how happy he was that men and women (Filipinos included) in NZ share in household chores. In one of his emails he shared: “Now at this time and age, women and men are on equal footing. I pray and hope to see the day when Women WOO men.” How about that for a quick smile? A joke or no joke, this statement was typically Papa Doy’s.

Papa Doy, we’re blessed that you’ve shared your time with us. Yes, with you, no blood relation is needed --- only reciprocal and welcoming affinities. To us, you were a fountain of joy even amidst the most dispirited circumstance.

Need Some Help?

The Wellington Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is part of a national network of volunteers who provide free services, information and practical advice to local communities. If they cannot help you, they can pass you on to the right organisations for the services you need.

Victim Support

Support and advocate for victims of crime and trauma.
0800 victim (842 846) | www.victimsupport.org.nz

CL Community Law

Free and confidential legal help in the Wellington and Hutt Valley

- Family law
- Employment law
- Refugee and immigration law

(04) 499 2928 | jinfo@wcl.org.nz | www.communitylaw.org.nz

Work and Income New Zealand

Need extra help with costs?
Work and Income New Zealand might be able to help!

- Accommodation costs
- Childcare costs
- Health costs
- Help for people with disabilities
- Training costs
- Living costs away from home
- Help for families

0800 559 009 | www.workandincome.govt.nz

Tenancy services

Renting guide for tenants and landlords. Know your rights and responsibilities when you start renting | 0800 TENANCY (836 262) | www.tenancy.govt.nz

Community services card

Helping you with the costs of health care
0800 999 999 | www.workandincome.govt.nz

Working for Families (Inland Revenue)

Working and raising a family?
See if you qualify for extra money
0800 227 773 | www.workingforfamilies.govt.nz

Leisure card (Wellington City residents only)

Wellington City Council’s Leisure Card is a free personalised membership scheme that gives discounted entry into a range of recreation services.
04 806 4745 | leisurecard@wcc.govt.nz

Work Connect

Work Connect is a FREE 10-hour programme to help you prepare for the New Zealand job market.
0800 222 733 | www.careers.govt.nz/work-connect

Support services

Kidline | 0800 543 754
Youthline | 0800 376 633
Parent helpline | 0800 568 856
Seniorline | 0800 725 463 | www.seniorline.org.nz
Services for seniors | 0800 552 002
www.seniors.msd.govt.nz
Healthline | free health information and advice from trained registered nurses | 0800 611 116

Consumer protection

Find out how you can protect yourself from scams.
0508 426 678 | cpinfo@mbie.govt.nz | www.consumerprotection.govt.nz

Kababayan Bread

Filipino Mini Bread

We have featured a few of our favourite breads and desserts in this section and we just couldn't and shouldn't forget to share the recipe for our namesake - the Filipino mini-muffin called ka(ba)layan.

Kababayan, the mini-muffin, is so-called because its shape resembles the traditional straw hats Filipinos used to wear many years ago. A staple in the local panaderia (bakery), kababayan is one of those must-have snacks when you visit the Philippines. But with this recipe you can now enjoy it at home here in New Zealand.

Thanks to Janette Zulueta Recano of Pinoy cooking recipes for generously allowing us to print her recipe. Thanks to Docric for trialling this recipe and giving us some samples to try. The last two pieces my daughter and I were saving for breakfast didn't even last half an hour after you left.

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
 3/4 cup brown sugar
 2 tsp baking powder
 2 eggs
 3/4 cup milk
 1/2 cup cooking oil
 2 tbsp vanilla extract
 1/2 tsp baking soda
 1/2 tsp salt
 2 tbsp melted butter
 1/4 cup sugar for sprinkling
 (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Combine dry ingredients - flour, brown sugar, baking powder baking soda and salt.
3. In another mixing bowl, combine eggs, milk, oil, and vanilla extract. Whisk until smooth.
4. Add this mixture into the dry ingredients.
5. Grease the muffin pans with butter or baking spray.
6. Transfer the mixture into the greased muffin pans using an ice cream scoop or spoon until half-full.
7. Bake for 15-18 minutes or until brown.
8. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with sugar (if desired).
9. Remove from muffin pans and cool on wire racks.





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