I LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE



Let's Party At 30!



Saturday • 21 September 2024

Ambassador Room West HQ, 55 Sherbrooke St. Rooty Hill











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PROGRAMME

Welcome to Country

National Anthems The Philippines and Australia

Prayer Gracie Lambo

Welcome Speech Meriam Panganiban

Banag-Banag President

Introduction of Guest Speaker Grace Reyes

Message Brad Bunting

Mayor of Blacktown City

Parade Banag-Banag Founders and Past Presidents

Acknowledgements **Meriam Panganiban**

Banag-Banag President

Part 1 Dream

Band I Love the Nightlife - Blacktown City Community Band

Dance Contest Tango - El Choclo

Dance Flowers - Philippine Dance Ensemble

Dance Texas Hold Em – Banag-Banag Line Dancers

Song I Love the Nightlife - Viktoria Bolonina

Part 2 Dare

Band It Ain't Over until it's Over - Blacktown City Community Band

Song Babooshka - Viktoria Bolonina

Song Greatest Showman in Earth - Nicholas Kokontis
Song Voi Che Sapete & Music For A while - Tiffany Wong

Dance Hip Hop Dance - The Clan

Part 3 Daybreak

Band One Night in Bangkok - Blacktown Community Band

Dance One Night in Bangkok - Philippine Dance Ensemble

Song **Quando Me'n Vo -** *Tiffany Wong*

Song Love Boat - Nicholas Kokontis

Song Never Can Say Goodbye - Viktoria Bolonina

Best Dressed Competition Rommel Olson

Song Angel Fernandez Arcenal

Dance Dance Dance Charity Raffle Draw

Program Hosts Max Lopez and Rommel Olson







MESSAGE

For three decades, the **Banag-Banag Inc. Bisayan Speaking Association** has been thriving and creating a remarkable impact on its members and in many communities in New South Wales, Australia. With its various activities for socialization and philanthropy, the group has not only showcased the Bisayan generosity but also its commitment to uplifting our fellow Filipinos. It has also proven how one's heritage can be nurtured no matter where fate brings a person, showing that one's identity can only be made stronger by embracing both one's roots and present reality.

As the organization marks its **30**th **Anniversary**, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the entire community—from its pioneers to its newest additions, and from its officers and members to its partners and beneficiaries. Now over 250-strong, it is worth recognizing that the successful increase in numbers and social responsibility projects could only flow from a deep sense of your solidarity and a genuine heart to share goodness with others. For this, congratulations to you all.

May your celebration be a time to remember and honor all the favorable outcomes of your passion and unity. Let this occasion likewise spur greater joy in your future gatherings and pursuits, especially as you continue to uphold the pride of the Filipino while you forge an exciting destiny in Australia.

Again, congratulations to everyone! Padayon!

FERDINAND R MARCOS JR.

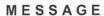
MANILA 21 September 2024





Pasuguan ng Pilipinas Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines Canberra







I wish to extend my warmest greetings to the officers, members and esteemed guests of the Banag-Banag Bisayan Speaking Association of Australia as you commemorate the 30th anniversary of your organization.

For three decades, the work of Banag-Banag has been a source of inspiration and pride for the Visayan-speaking community, serving as a bridge that connects the community with their roots in the Visayas region. Through your dedicated efforts in sharing the rich history and cultural heritage of the Visayas with a wider audience, Banag-Banag has helped foster a deeper sense of identity, belonging and unity among the Bisaya community in Australia.

Banag-Banag has demonstrated a deep sense of responsibility and compassion by actively participating in various social and charitable activities and their commitment to community service is evident in the numerous initiatives they have undertaken, both locally in Sydney and in the Philippines. Banag-Banag's contributions indeed reflect a profound dedication to cultural preservation and community development.

As you celebrate this remarkable milestone, I encourage you to continue illuminating the path for others and representing the Philippines with excellence. I urge our Filipino community to move in solidarity in raising the profile of Filipinos in Australia and continue to support the strong and steadfast Philippines-Australia Strategic Partnership.

Congratulations on your 30th anniversary, and may Banag-Banag continue to thrive in the years to come.

Maraming salamat and Mabuhay po kayo!

MA. HELLEN B. DE LA VEGA

Ambassador

21 September 2024, Canberra





Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines Sydney





MESSAGE

On behalf of the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to Banag-Banag, Inc. for celebrating the 30th foundation anniversary.

I also wish to congratulate the officers and members of Banag-Banag Inc. for organizing this year's celebration with the theme "I Love the Nightlife: Let's Party at 30."

Since its founding 30 years ago, Banag-Banag, Inc. has extended assistance to our *kababayans* both in Australia and the Philippines.

I commend Banag-Banag, Inc. for its consistent pursuit of humanitarian activities that have benefitted our *kababayans* through its scholarship program extended to financially disadvantaged students in the Visayas region, and the distribution of relief goods to victims of calamities, among many other worthy initiatives.

I hope that the members of Banag-Banag, Inc. will continue to share their blessings to disadvantaged groups through its programs and projects.

May the officers and members continue to be steadfast in representing the unified voice of the Visayan speakers in New South Wales, and in promoting the cultural heritage of the region to the mainstream.

Again, congratulations to all of you, and I wish Banag-Banag, Inc. a meaningful and successful celebration this year.

Mabuhay!

CHARMAINE ROWENA C. AVIQUIVIL

Consul General







Dear Banag-Banag Community

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your 30th anniversary.

There are more than 25,000 people in Blacktown City who were born in the Philippines and they are vital contributors to the cultural fabric of our community.

Council and the Filipino community come together each year to mark the anniversary of Philippine independence and celebrate your culture.

I was pleased we extended the celebrations this year with a cultural exhibit at Max Webber Library at Blacktown. The exhibit showed cultural dress, artistic imagery and migratory stories and was a fine introduction to Filipino Australians for the wider community.

When I walk through our town centres, I often notice the Filipino contribution, from restaurants offering authentic food to people speaking Bisayan and other languages.

This influence extends to Council decision-making. Two Filipino Australians have been Blacktown City Councillors in recent years.

Australia and the Philippines have a strong friendship based on shared values and interests, and Banag-Banag is a fitting embodiment of this.

The cultural exchanges you provide strengthens diversity and promotes tolerance and understanding.

I look forward to your continued success and trust you enjoy your celebrations.

Best wishes

Brad Bunting

Mayor of Blacktown City







This year is no ordinary year: it is the 30th anniversary of Banag-Banag Incorporated. From its humble beginnings as a weekly gathering of Visayan speaking Filipino-Australian migrants in Sydney, Banag-Banag has since grown to become not just one of the most active, but the most colourful and oldest association of Visayan speaking Filipino-Australian migrants in New South Wales. The fact that it is celebrating its 30th birthday tonight is proof of its longevity and resilience.

Through the years and up to today, Banag-Banag has supported charitable and humanitarian projects in NSW, among them: scholarship projects too poor but deserving students at Don Bosco technical school in Cebu City, giving financial and in-kind support to orphanages in Negros Oriental such as the Friendship Foundation Home, computer and book donations to various schools and a home for the elderly in Leyte, promoting Philippine coffee in New South Wales, and supporting youth and cultural initiatives in Sydney. Banag-Banag thus, for Filipino Australians in New South Wales, a "home away from home".

I have always looked for an association that takes good care of the priorities and needs of the youth in the Philippines, whether students or orphans. And also an association that takes care of the Filipino-Australian leaving behind their land of birth and settling permanently in this beautiful land down under. I find that in this association. I'm also happy of the warm love and friendship I received from fellow officers and members of the association.

No man is an island, as the song and John Donne's poem goes. For whom the bell rolls, it tolls for me. The little help Banag-Banag has extended to the students and youth in both the Philippines and Australia will have long-lasting ramification to the lives of people. I am happy to be part of that endeavour, and to be this year's President of an association I can rightly be proud of!

Mabuhay, and "Let's Party at 30!"

Meriam Panganiban

Banag-Banag, President

Banag-Banag Officers 2024



MERIAM PANGANIBAN President



IMELDA SAMWAYS Vice President



JESSICA NUGUID
Secretary



VIVIAN BREWINGTON Treasurer

DIRECTORS



LLOYD LAMBO



GRACE REYES



GIL MARVEL TABUCANON



DAVE RAMASSports Director



BRIELDA BOSTOCK *Art Director*



FE NUGUIDWays & Means



PAZ KENNEDY *Decoration*



HONEY PULIEBanag-Banag Junior
Coordinator



MARISSA DIONSON-BALA Legal Adviser



Banag-Banag Founders



ART BACALLA Executive Chairman

JACK ESTAVILLA Operational Chairman

PAENG CARABANA Sports & Recreation



JADE BALA External Affairs



LOEL ORTIZ



CHRIS VERGARA Media & Communication



ELY BRAGAT Cultural & Social Affairs

Banag-Banag Past Presidents



BRIAN LORENZ 2020 to 2022



DORIE MEMBRANO



MARISSA DIONSON- BALA





ANITA CAPALA



RACHAEL REBOLLIDO

ELY BRAGAT



MICHELLE RAMAS



JADE BALA



TOM BAENA Interim President 2004



BUDDY ARANTE





ART BACALLA Founding Executive Chairman 1994 ~ 1997



Banag-Banag Mission Statement

Mission Statement

To present a unified voice among the Bisayaspeaking community to the Australian community.

To promote activities that will enhance the physical, mental and social well-being of the membership of the Bisaya-speaking community.

To preserve and enrich the cultural heritage and identity of the Bisaya-speaking group through its interaction with other Filipino cultural groups and the wider Australian community.

To sponsor activities that will encourage friendship and camaraderie with other Filipino and Australian associations.

To provide assistance and contact points for new arrival migrants in whatever manner possible.

To provide support and assistance to members of the association and their immediate families in times of need, suffering, sickness and death.

To provide support and assistance to charitable associations and other groups promoting worthwhile activities.

To afford members a chance to develop leadership opportunities in the association.

Banag-Banag Hymn

Ι

Kahigalaan, kahigalaan, Banag-banag ania na, Bidlisiw maaninaw, Kangitngit giilisan.

II

Kahayag, haduol na. Mga problema, kalimtan ta. Kakapoy, kabalaka Pulihan ta, kasadya ug paglaum.

(Koro)

Bag-ohon ta ang kinabuhi Magtinabangay, mag-ambahan Ug maghi-usa kitang tanan Sa bag-ong adlaw ug kahigayonan. (Repeat I and II then end)



BB Juniors

















On Seneca's "Life Is Long If You Know How to Use It"

by Gil Marvel Tabucanon

Given a short lifespan, how much choice do we really have to lead a life of meaning? How much or how little lie "within our power" given that our time on earth "only lasts an hour" in the curt lines of Emily Dickinson?

When we opened our eyes the first time, things were there for us! We have our families, our distinct looks, gender, religion, personality, capacity and predispositions. The whole "birth" package came to us for free and without our choosing.

But, there are also aspects left free for us to pick: we can choose how we spend our time, where to live, what to believe in, who to love and which friend to explore the world with! Whether trekking to mountains or exploring philosophical ideas together, friends make our choices easier and our steps lighter.

Yet, Seneca in "On the Shortness of Life: Life Is Long If You Know How to Use It", notes how we waste a lot of our time in idle thinking and meaningless pursuits. We easily forget time is that precious commodity given to us on loan. He reminds us our life's most important resource – our time – is non-renewable, hence the need to use it wisely and meaningfully.

Beyond the repetitive grind of work, business or occupation, and the fun times spent on our days off, what else do we do to give our days meaning?

What pursuits warm us, what thoughts lead us to burn our midnight candles doing the work we truly love. If we have our druthers, what will we do that's not motivated by money, power or success?

An improper use of time, for Seneca, is one devoted to proving or showing off how successful or privileged one's social standing is, calling those with such lifestyles "idly preoccupied" in engaging wasteful pursuits. If anything, such pursuits are aimed not so much in doing our life's vocation, but done rather to cater to that childish need to make others admire us – but, if I may add, to what purpose or end?

Stoic philosopher Epictetus says "never depend on the admiration of others – there is no strength to it. Personal merit cannot be derived from an external source". By extension, personal merit cannot also be received through our association with famous or talented people, for, says Epictetus, "you have been given your own work to do – [thus] get to it right now. Do your best at it and don't be concerned with who is watching you."

There is also a life lived in social distraction and entertainments. Seneca recognizes the need for leisure and socialization. Nonetheless, a life devoted almost exclusively towards pleasure is meaningless. He says "when life is squandered through soft and careless living, and when it's spent on no worthwhile pursuit, death finally presses and we realize that the life which we didn't notice passing has passed away".

The reason why we squander much of our time according to Seneca is we forget how limited our loaned time is, and that soon we are going to die:

"You live as if you were destined to live forever. No thought of your frailty ever enters your head, of how much time has already gone by you take no heed. You squander time as if you drew from a full and abundant supply, though all the while that day which you bestow on some person or thing is perhaps your last."

Seneca thus counsels us to be wary of any activity which will take much of our time away from our life's true goals and pursuits. For instance, why are we here, what is the purpose of our being here, and how will we find out what we were really intended to do. My answer to this is at the end of each day, when all is said and done, we will know. There is that little voice from within that urges, and prods us and won't stop, until we listen to it. We do not know where that voice comes from – but it is there. It is our guide and it is real.

Epictetus, echoing Seneca, agrees that while we do get distracted at times and often engage in various amusements, these should not dominate our lives thereby making us forget our true purpose. To help us recognize our life's true goals Epictetus gives us the analogy of life on a voyage towards our life's true aims:

"If you were on a voyage and the ship is anchored in a harbor, you might go ashore for water and happen to pick up a shellfish or a plant. But be careful; listen for the call of the captain. Keep your attention directed at the ship. Getting distracted by trifles is the easiest thing in the world. Should the captain call, you must be ready to leave those distractions and come running, without even looking back. If you are old, do not go far from the ship, or you might fail to appear when you are called for."



Dr Gil Marvel Tabucanon teaches Jurisprudence and Theories of Law at Macquarie University School of Law in Sydney. He can be reached at gil.tabucanon@gmail.com

Social - Cultural Events















Charity Works





BANAG-BANAG VOCATIONAL SCHOLARS 2023 DON BOSCO TVET CENTER, PASIL, CEBU CITY BATCH 9





Imelito Jr. A. Sabalones

Alvin V. Rallos











Entertainers



Viktoria Bolonina

Viktoria Bolonina is an Australian classical and pop singer, composer and recording artist. Since 2012 she has been performing all over Australia as well as internationally in Singapore and Belarus after having a successful journey on The Voice Australia. In 2018 Viktoria graduated with a scholarship achieving a Master of Music in Opera Performance at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Viktoria has sung with Australian music stars such as Delta Goodrem and Mark Vincent and shared the stage with icons like Leo Sayer, Rhonda Burchmore, Paulini and Casey Donovan as well as performed major roles in operas "The Fairy Queen", "La Calisto", "The Magic Flute" and "Kashchey the Immortal" landing her a career path to merge her pop and classical skills together and forming her own VIKTORIA SHOW.

The Philippine Dance Ensemble

The Philippine Dance Ensemble is a dance group that showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines through traditional and contemporary dance.

They perform a wide range of dances, including international folk dances, Spanish, Brazilian, Hawaiian, Latin, Jazz, modern and contemporary often incorporating traditional Filipino music and costumes.

The ensemble aims to promote Filipino culture and Arts globally, and to preserve the country's dance tradition for future generations.



Founder/ Choreographer Linda Rose Bishop -Rommel Olson Head Choreographer - Brix Selaznog Choreographer. Dancers at this event - Anie Gonzales, Marlyn Pearce, Rhodora Williams, Vivian, Clint, Peter and Ehman.



Angel Fernandez Arcenal

Banag-Banag Line Dancers

A sophisticated coterie of dance enthusiasts, including stunning wives and a dedicated gentleman, fostering a sense of community through their shared interest.

Nicholas Koko<mark>ntis</mark>

Nicholas Kokontis is a remarkably talented 14 year old singer who's abilities span across music, acting and dance. With a powerful voice and charismatic stage presence Nicholas's performances aren't just shows they are experiences that bring joy and delight to everybody that watches Nicholas also has been in a variety of Australian based short films and has worked with film directors in Australia and America. Nicholas also has a passion for musical theatre and his passion



for this art form is evident in his dynamic performances across a range of musicals as Nicholas continues to share his remarkable talent on stage he remains dedicated to brightening lives and elevating spirits with every note he sings.





The Blacktown City **Community Band**

The Blacktown City Community Band is a 15+ member band who performs a wide range of genres including but limited to Jazz, Pop, Latin, Swing, Disco and Christian songs. Thus a there are a large range of instruments played by the band, this includes flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, french horns, tubas, euphoniums, bass and lead guitars, keyboards, drums and lastly percussion. Currently the band consists of around 15 members, ranging from the ages of 12 to 30.

The Clan

All filo dance group that consists of 3 different groups that shares the same passion and love for dancing.

- World of Dance Sydney 2024 Gold Medalist
- Hiphop International 2024 Regional (NSW) Gold Medalist
- Hiphop International Finals 2024 Silver Medalist
- Australian Dance Crew Championships Regional Gold Medalist



Tiffany Wong

Tiffany is a bright, creative and passionate music theatre performer studying at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She hopes to inspire and bring joy & greater purpose to others through her craft.

Rommel Olson

Rommel Olson is an International All Star Dance Teacher. He serves as a Production Director and Choreographer. Notably, he is a Professional Dance Teacher at Arthur Murray.





Max Lopez

A Juror for Radio Category Cebu Archdiocese Catholic Mass Media Awards. A graduate of Mass Communication of University of San Jose-Recoletos.



Happy 30th Anniversary Bang-Banag!

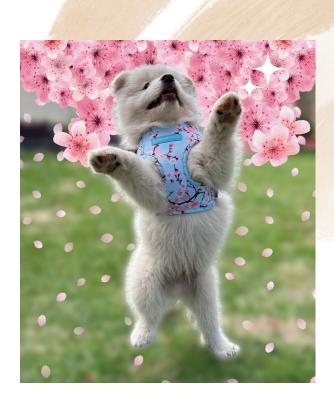




Premium Dog Accesories & Australian Made Treats

Launched in the new year of 2024, Cloud Friends is more than just a brand—it's a tribute to the passing of our beloved Samoyed named Shiroe. Created to honor his joyful and playful spirit, Cloud Friends offers premium dog accessories and Australian—made treats that enhances the quality of life between owners and their furry companions.





Our values are deeply rooted in our genuine love for animals, driving us to deliver superior quality products.
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Expect transparency, comfort, functionality, and stylish exclusivity from our dog accessories. Cloud Friends is committed to delivering premium offerings for years of tail-wagging adventures, ensuring Shiroe's legacy continues to bring happiness to pets and their owners alike.

Sincerely, Founders Robert & Jasmine

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30TH ANNIVERSARY

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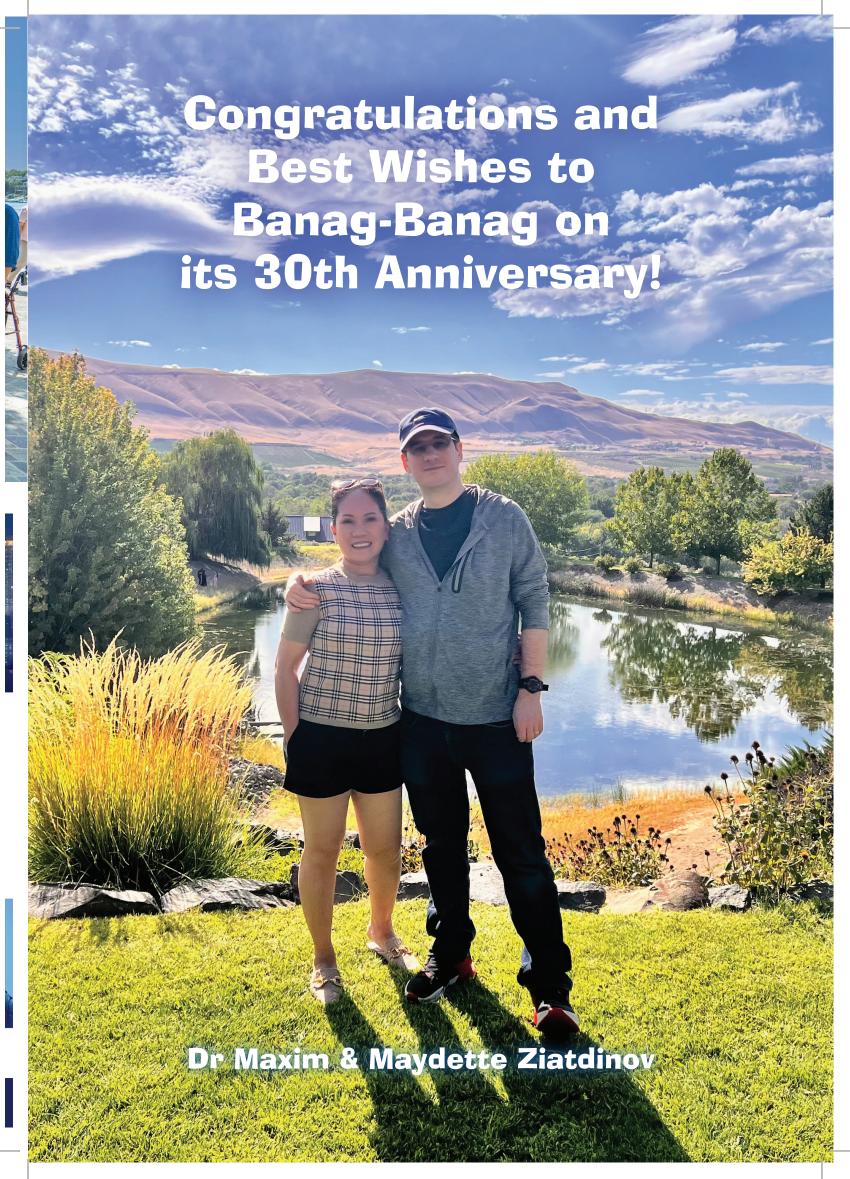




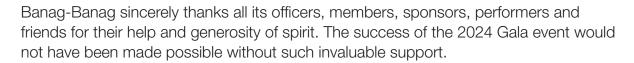








Acknowledgement



Program Director – Gil Marvel Tabucanon

Graphics Designer and Audio-Visual

Lloyd Lambo Vanessa Lambo

Nito Roque

Art Director

Chairman - Brielda Bostock Paz Kennedy Imelda Samways

Stage Manager

Chairman - Louella De Los Santos Grace & Rodney Reyes

Finance

Vivian Brewington

Narrators

Ruby Tabucanon Justinian Tabucanon

Best Dressed Contest Judges

Chairman - Claudio Lisao Dr Arlene Amor Linda Rose Bishop

Video/Photography

Lenzmen Photo and Video Bob Reyes Marissa Dionson-Bala

Souvenir Programme

Bob Reyes Marissa Dionson-Bala Gil Tabucanon

Ways & Means

Fe Nuguid

Special Thanks

West HQ Rooty Hill RSL Club Banag-Banag Incorporated has developed a website which will allow its members and friends to be updated of the organisation's plans and projects.



The site is maintained by volunteers from various professions who selflessly devoted their time in keeping the site up to date.

www.banagbanag.org Email: admin@banagbanag.org



Link for the event

Digital copy of this souvenir program can be accessed online at www.banagbanag.org.



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