

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15



BTPA is committed to building a compassionate global community where every child's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.





Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia (BTPA)

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Message from the President

In 2014-15, Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia (BTPA) has continued to fulfil the two aspects of our mission — providing opportunities for Australians to make lasting change towards a socially just world; and building the capacity of Bahay Tuluyan (our partner organisation in the Philippines) to work with children living in poverty.

The actions detailed in this report show the energy and enthusiasm of our organisation. Our main annual fundraising and awareness work — the annual KidsView tour — falls outside the time period for this report (having taken place in May 2014 and August 2015). Yet, the number of other events organised between July 2014 and June 2015 show that BTPA's work extends beyond KidsView. In particular, this report details the organisation of a large shipping container of donated goods (including children's play equipment) for use at Bahay Tuluyan's centres, movie and trivia nights, merchandise sales and volunteer visits to the Philippines. We have also continued to update our website and use facebook to keep in regular contact with our supporters.

BTPA's work relies on the generous efforts of our volunteers. We very much appreciate their many and varied contributions.

We always welcome new volunteers to support our work, and we are always reflecting on ways to grow our organisation. In particular, over the coming year we aim to focus on developing our educational programs and providing targeted, practical support for Bahay Tuluyan's fundraising strategy.

It is a privilege to be part of such an innovative and inspiring organisation.

Belinda Parker
President BTPA 2014-15

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES & GOALS

Strategic Planning

Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia (BTPA) was founded in early 2004 by a group of young Australian volunteers who had worked with Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines and returned to Australia. Their desire was to be able to support Bahay Tuluyan's work in the Philippines through direct action in Australia and founded BTPA for this purpose.

2014 marked BTPA's 10th year in existence. At this major milestone, the Committee of BTPA thought it was a good opportunity to stop and reflect on the work of the organisation and to plan for its future. For this purpose a strategic planning day was held in Melbourne in April 2014 to clarify the vision, mission and core values of the organisation. During this activity the organisation's strategic goals for the three years from 1 July 2014 until 30 June 2017 were also established. The result of this planning is outlined below:

Vision

BTPA is committed to building a compassionate global community where every child's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Mission

BTPA is a children's rights organisation providing opportunities for Australians to make lasting change towards a socially just world and building the capacity of our partner organisation in the Philippines to work with children living in poverty. We do this through education, advocacy, volunteering and sustainable development programs.

Core Values

- Rights based framework
- Empowerment and participation
- Sustainability
- Ethics and fairness
- Efficiency and effectiveness
- Transparency and accountability
- Mutual respect

Goals

In the three years from July 1st 2014 until June 30th 2017, BTPA will:

1. Have 15,000 people participate in advocacy events run by or involving BTPA and to inspire or support 1000 people to take action to create a socially just world.
2. Build the capacity of Bahay Tuluyan to empower and support 20% more children through its programs and increase by 20% our financial, material and human resource support of BT, with an emphasis on self-reliance projects.
3. Develop processes and structures to strengthen and diversify BTPA and our partnership with BT into the future.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia (BTPA) undertook a variety of activities during 2014-15 aimed at furthering our vision, mission and goals. A summary of these activities is outlined below.

Towards a Child Friendly World

On 1 July 2014 BTPA started a special project with Bahay Tuluyan, 'Towards a Child Friendly World'. Under an MOA signed by Bahay Tuluyan and BTPA in relation to this project, the two organisations agreed to work in partnership for an initial period of 12 months to assist Bahay Tuluyan to achieve their key objectives under that organisation's Strategic Plan. The three key goals of that project and of Bahay Tuluyan's strategic plan are that by the end of 2017:

1. At least 90% of children involved in Bahay Tuluyan programs demonstrate increased resiliency and decreased vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.
2. At least 75% of adults reached through Bahay Tuluyan's programs report that their knowledge and/or skills to protect children from abuse and exploitation have increased.
3. Bahay Tuluyan is ethical, humane, socially responsible, culturally-sensitive and environment-friendly and is able to self-fund at least 40% of its operational costs.

BTPA agreed to provide a minimum of \$80,000 to support the project over 12 months. The project set specific targets for each of Bahay Tuluyan's 10 programs to achieve in the first 12 months of implementation. A vast majority of the targets set were achieved with many targets exceeded.

Some highlights from that project were:

- An average of 86 children sheltered every night
- 193 children sheltered for more than 1 month
- 61 children reintegrated into their families
- 452 children engaged in bridge education
- 154 children assisted to enrol in school
- 137 youth contributed 5900 volunteer hours to Bahay Tuluyan
- 127 youth involved in leadership programs
- 6717 children involved in youth led activities
- Drop in centre accessed an average of 350 times per week
- 450 meals and 85 showers provided to street children each week
- Average of 176 children involved in street education each week
- 53 street education sessions provided
- 1958 street children reached via street education on mobile unit
- 3.7 ha rice farm purchased and first crop of rice harvested
- Bahay Tuluyan generated 20.38% of its expenses through self-reliance projects
- 16 staff trained in natural farming, 9 trained to teach children's rights
- 40 youth involved in 5 social enterprises
- Youth have cumulatively earned more than \$12,000 through social enterprise
- 15 youth have been supported with tertiary education, 3 graduated in April 2015
- More than 50 media events covering Bahay Tuluyan's work
- 27 community development events involving 3001 people have been run



BTPA has agreed to continue to support this project for the year 2015-2016.



KidsView

Due to a change in scheduling, KidsView was not held during this reporting period.

Considerable work was done to mobilise schools to participate in 14 conferences scheduled to be held in Melbourne, Sydney and Darwin in July and August 2015.

A substantial amount of work was also done to develop and refine the interactive modules that BTPA has designed for use in KidsView, these modules aim to help Australian school students understand some of the complexities of poverty and how these shape and impact lives.

Kids View



Children's Rights Study Tour

Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia (BTPA), in partnership with Bahay Tuluyan, ran the 3rd Children's Rights Study Tour for Teachers in the Philippines from 21 September to 2 October 2014; this tour involved three teachers from Melbourne, Australia. Recruitment of these teachers was through KidsView 2014 and through BTPA's newsletters and other social media communications.

The teachers spent 10 days with Bahay Tuluyan visiting various sites and activities with the goal of understanding more deeply the issues affecting children in the Philippines. The teachers were very positive in their feedback about the tour and its impact on them and their understanding of poverty. The connection between BTPA and these teachers and their schools was then developed further through their commitment to host or engage in KidsView conferences in 2015 and through the collection of financial and in kind donations to Bahay Tuluyan.

Volunteers

During the reporting year 2014-15, there were at least 50 local volunteers who contributed to BTPA's work in Australia. An estimated 1500 volunteer hours were contributed by these volunteers throughout the year. These volunteers contributed in many different ways including:

- Organising or assisting with fundraising events
- Organising KidsView tour
- Hosting KidsView participants
- Managing accounts and finances
- Handling administration and correspondence
- Running the sales and distribution of Fairtrade products
- Facilitating KidsView workshops and assisting with conferences
- Mobilizing and training volunteers
- Developing KidsView resources
- Collecting and packing donations
- Organising and running meetings
- Writing and preparing reports
- Seeking grants and support
- Liaising with partners
- Coordinating contacts and activities with schools
- Preparing and distribution newsletters

BTPA is sincerely grateful to the volunteers who contributed to BTPA during 2014-2015.

BTPA does not directly deploy volunteers to Bahay Tuluyan however it often provides a liaison role to volunteers before or after they have volunteered with Bahay Tuluyan. During 2014-15, there were a total of 29 Australians who volunteered with Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines including:

- 23 from Macquarie University (Sydney)
- 1 from Australian Business Volunteers
- 5 independent volunteers

Partnership with Rotary Club of Essendon

BTPA has had an ongoing partnership with the Rotary Club of Essendon in their mutual endeavours to support Bahay Tuluyan. During this reporting period there were various areas of cooperation including:

- Collaboration to gather in kind donations and send to Bahay Tuluyan – also in collaboration with Rotary Donations in Kind – and financial contribution to the cost of sending the container.
- Partnership to plan and run trivia night in October 2014. Total funds raised were \$11,500 to be contributed towards the purchase of an elevator and generator for Makabata Guesthouse & Café, Bahay Tuluyan's social enterprise and youth training program in Manila. Kangan Institute also assisted in the organisation of this event

Ethical Trade – Recreate Philippines

One of Bahay Tuluyan's social enterprises is Recreate Philippines, a project that upcycles used magazines, juice boxes, telephone directories and chip packets. Bahay Tuluyan's children are involved in making jewellery from recycled magazines and creating handmade greeting cards. Other products are sourced from a local Philippine livelihood project known as Alay Kapwa. The products coming from Alay Kapwa, including juice bags, pencil cases and purses, are made by economically-disadvantaged women.



Throughout 2014-2015 BTPA continued to purchase large quantities of Recreate Philippines products which it then sold both directly at various events and also on consignment, particularly through schools that had been involved in KidsView and wanted to be able to directly support Bahay Tuluyan. A total of \$4378.60 worth of merchandise sales were made during this reporting period.

Fundraising

Another key area of BTPA's work was to generate funding to allow it to continue its work. Some of the fundraising activities that took place during 2014-15 include:

- Sale of Entertainment Books – This being the first attempt that BTPA has sold these books a very successful outcome of a total of 34 were sold which yielded a total profit of \$466.
- Movie Night – a night featuring the movie 'Selma' was held at Novo Cinemas in Carlton. A total of 82 people attend the night raising a profit of \$890.

Donations In Kind

Through its close relationship with Kangan Institute, BTPA was able to secure a large number of good quality educational toys and equipment for Bahay Tuluyan. BTPA then also sought donations of used school shoes and running shoes from its schools network. The response to this appeal was overwhelming with fifteen schools donating hundreds of pairs of shoes. A generous group of volunteers helped pack and pay for a 20ft container to be delivered to Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines. This was packed and shipped to the Philippines in May 2015.



OUR ORGANISATION

Governance

A total of six committee meetings were held during 2014- 2015 reporting period.

Position	Occupant	Meetings
Chairperson	Belinda Parker	5
Deputy Chair	Adrian Scerri	4
Treasurer	Mona Zabakly	4
Secretary	Margaret Fogarty	6
Ordinary Member	Clare Scerri	6
Ordinary Member	Cathy Nicou	6
Observer	Anne Hibbert	5
Special Projects Coordinator	Catherine Scerri	4

BTPA remained in compliance with Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission (ACNC) during 2014-2015 as well as being registered with Consumer affairs Victoria and also Trade and Investment Office of liquor, Gaming and Racing (for NSW).

There were a total of 21 members of BTPA during 2014-15 who have supported BPTA in various areas.

Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia (BTPA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2014-2015 was held on Tuesday 8th September 2015. The following committee were elected during that meeting for a period of 12 months.

Position	Occupant
Chairperson	Belinda Parker
Deputy Chair	Cathy Nicou
Treasurer	Mona Zabakly
Secretary	Margaret Fogarty
Ordinary Member	Clare Scerri
Ordinary Member	Anne Hibbert

The meeting acknowledged the work of Adrian Scerri who stepped down from the committee at this meeting. Adrian has been a strong supporting of BTPA and BT for many years and have contributed many hours in doing so.

Finances

This financial year BTPA raised \$95,466.41 through various donations and fundraising activities.

Donations made up \$62,346.44. Though a sizable amount, this figure was 18% short of budget. This was probably due to Kidsview falling outside the financial year reported. Kidsview has a spill-on effect in terms of donations. Nevertheless, we are looking to bolster this through various appeals during the next financial year.

The teachers' trip raised \$2940, and various fundraisers (including the much loved film night) raised \$13,176.86. We raised \$4378 through sale of goods made in the Philippines. We also received over \$500 from bank interest by investing excess funds in a high interest bank account when possible.

In total we sent \$99,000 to Bahay Tuluyan in the Philippines. We also sent a large shipping container full of equipment to assist the Bahay Tuluyan centre. Even though sending the container was at our expense, the value of the goods sent far outweighed the cost.

The recent fall in the Australian dollar has not been to our advantage, as this affects the exchange rate adversely. We are always on the lookout for more efficient ways to send funds overseas, trying to minimise bank transfer fees, and looking for the best exchange rate.

Finally, BTPA is not obliged legally to be audited, due to the small size of our fundraising. However, for the sake of transparency we have engaged the services of an independent, registered auditor who has been auditing our books pro bono.

His unqualified audit report is attached.

Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the 12 months ended 30 June 2015

Receipts

KidsView		
Conference	\$	3,150.00
Dinner	\$	8,242.00
Appeals/Special Projects	\$	677.50
Teachers' Trip	\$	2,940.00
Fundraisers		
Film Nights	\$	890.00
Other	\$	12,286.86
Sale of goods	\$	4,378.60
Donations	\$	62,346.44
Interest		
Chq Acct	\$	53.17
Res Bonus	\$	501.84
	\$	<u>95,466.41</u>

Payments

Kidsview		
Dinner		
Conference	\$	13,026.21
Misc	\$	1,224.14
Bank Fees	\$	83.70
Adminis'n	\$	53.00
Payment to Contractor	\$	9,000.00
Transfers to BT	\$	99,000.00
Teachers' trip transfer	\$	2,940.00
Shipping Container	\$	1,818.44
Fundraiser Sydney	\$	1,956.00
	\$	<u>129,101.49</u>
Net deficit	-\$	<u>33,635.08</u>

Independent Audit Report

To the members of Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia Inc

Scope of Audit

We, SBA Blackburn Vermont have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia Inc for the year ended 30 June 2015 as set out on the Financial Statements

The Management Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information it contains and has determined that the accounting policies used and described in note 1 to the financial statements which form part of the financial report are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Act* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

We have also conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion to the members of the association on their preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in note 1, is appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members and to satisfy the reporting requirements of the *Associations Act*. I/We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for reliance on this audit report or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The procedures included examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 1 so as to present a view consistent with my/our understanding of the financial position and performance of *[insert name of association]* as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

A. Audit Opinion (unqualified)

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Bahay Tuluyan Philippines Australia Inc., and the results of its operations at *[insert date]* in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

Signed



Dated

6 September 2015

Special Projects Coordinator

Deputy Director of Bahay Tuluyan, Catherine Scerri, continued to be engaged by BTPA as a Special Projects Coordinator during 2014-15 which the position was funded by the Cubit Family Foundation. In her role as Special Projects Coordinator, Catherine coordinated the implementation of projects such as KidsView and the Children's Rights Study Tour as well as acting as a liaison between Bahay Tuluyan and BTPA.

Communications

Throughout this year BTPA maintained a database of 628 friends, supporters and volunteers. Two newsletters were sent out to these supporters over the 12 month period. Since BTPA's website was rebuilt in 2013 it has been regularly maintained and is the main source of information for supporters, schools and volunteers.

BTPA has actively used the social media platform of Facebook during 2014-2015 to engage with its friends and supporters, during this period the number of 'likes' increased from 340 to 513. As a result of using social media, BTPA has increased its profile and recruited volunteers and participants to KidsView.