



CARAROO FOUNDATION INC

www.cararoofoundation.com

Contact Samoan at samoan.cararoo@gmail.com

Ph: +61 413 430 130

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Newsletter – October 2024 – Edition 24

'Vale' Maurie Schokman

It is with much sadness that we recognise the passing of Maurie Schokman in 2023. Maurie was the driving force which ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Cararoo Foundation. What started with three other colleagues in 1998 as a feeding program to support a small Informal settler of around 1,000 people located in Merville Paranaque grew to become the Foundation we have today with the establishment of the Foundation and incorporation in 2005.

Maurie's career took him through Europe, Asia and North America with the majority spent across Asia (China, Philippines etc). It was in the Philippines that Maurie and colleagues decided to establish the Foundation to educate the children and give them the best chance to impact their future through education.

When Maurie retired from corporate life, the Foundation became a focus for him. For those who did not know Maurie, he had strong work ethics, some would say workaholic and the drive to succeed in whatever he did. This energy and focus lead to the Foundation supporting more than 80 children at its peak.

Success for Maurie was measured by the number of children in the program and getting them into meaningful employment that would allow them to move out of the Informal settlers thus breaking the cycle of poverty. His dedication to the Foundation motto "Educating Children Out of Poverty" was for all to see with his compassion, energy and drive to make a difference unquestionable.

The Board and those who have passed through the Foundation are truly grateful that he and his colleagues decided to not just sit back and make a difference to the lives of so many students and their families. Maurie, you will be missed but we will try and continue your work and finish what he started.



Introducing Samoan Fuller

The Board would like to introduce Samoan Fuller who is the daughter of Maurie and has stepped into fill the very large gap left by Maurie's passing. Samoan lives in Sydney, Australia and is married to Glen and has three children Matthew, Chelsea and Zachary.

Samoan has a career in financial services and shares Maurie's vision and is committed to finishing what her father and others started many years ago.

Samoan can be contacted via email at samoan.cararoo@gmail.com or mobile +61 413 530 130.



The History of Cararoo Foundation

In 1998 four businessmen rallied to provide practical assistance, in the form of an annual feeding program, to a community living in difficult circumstances in the Philippines. As the years went by, we realised that an annual feeding program, although feeding around 12,000 people by 2004, was not the answer. We needed to focus on EDUCATION, were positive, ongoing change could be achieved.

In 2005 with the assistance of Rotary Australia World Community Services (RAWCS) and the Rotary Club Makati Dasmariñas (RCMD), the Cararoo Foundation Inc. a non-for-profit Foundation in the Philippines was formed by Australian based Rotarian Maurie Schokman.

When starting this Foundation, our aim was to provide EDUCATION and help the children in one very small Informal settler with around 1,000 people. The village is in Merville Paranaque around 7 km from Manila and is one of 13 villages based along a creek bed (storm water easement) in Merville.

Since 2005 Cararoo has helped over 100 children with their educational needs with many students going onto tertiary level education. We currently have seven students who have graduated the program and are studying degrees including education, accountancy and Information and technology.



Cararoo', is derived from the Filipino **carabao** and the Australian **kangaroo**, signifying the joint participation of the two countries.

Graduating Class of 2024

2024 was a very successful year for the Foundation with four students graduating secondary school (High School) with all qualifying to continue their educational studies by being accepted into their chosen Tertiary courses. Congratulations and good luck to **Ashley V. Montoya** (studying a Bachelor of Accountancy), **John Benidict Sialog** (studying a Bachelor of Information technology), **MA. Cleopatra Dotimas** (studying Hospitality) and **Katherine S Kucasan** (studying a Bachelor of accountancy). All students have been with the Foundation since they started their primary and secondary education and are prime examples of what can be achieved.

The Board congratulates the students for all their hard work and wish them all the best with the next phase of their education. The four students join three other students currently enrolled in tertiary level education who continue to be supported through the Foundation generous sponsors and contributors. If you would like to support these students through sponsorship, please refer to details below.



Mental Health Program

During and post covid pandemic the Foundation provided students with access to mental health programs to assist them with the challenges they were experiencing with the lock down and lack of social interactions amongst the students. The Mental Health Program was possible through the generous grant provided by Rotary Australia and Funds raised by the Foundation.

The program provided one on one and group sessions to students and was developed and delivered by Psychologists and mental health Practitioners from Light Level Psychological Solutions Inc (LLPS).



Rugby / SCC Growlers

The Foundation has many long-term contributors one of these is the SCC Growlers. The Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Cook and members of the SCC Growlers who have contributed and supported the Foundation over many years. The Growlers have supported the Foundation through fundraising activities to support a specific appeal, sponsoring a Rugby 7s program where the children participated in physical activities and local competitions. Funds raised by the Growlers have significantly contributed to the success of the Foundation and without friends like the Growlers the job of the Foundation would be that much harder.



Flood Damage and Christmas Appeal 2024

Following monsoonal rains in September 2024, the village was again inundated with flood water from the stormwater drains which traverse the area. Unfortunately, the canteen area has impacted with almost a foot of water through the structure resulting in damage to the frame of the building and electrical wiring which provides power to canteen.

In response to the flooding and the upcoming Christmas period we are launching an appeal for donations to support the repairs to the canteen and provide families supported by Cararoo and the immediate community with Xmas hampers of food and other seasonal goods to improve the festive period and allow the children enrolled in the foundation to have a Christmas party.

We understand that many are currently experienced cost of living pressures themselves and understand if you are unable to assist us currently. If you can make a donation, could you please visit the Rotary donations site via the [RAWCS | Donation link](#). If you can add the text "Flood and Christmas Appeal 2024" as the message for the project manager this will ensure the funds are allocated for this purpose. If you think your friends or family may also like to contribute to this appeal, please forward this newsletter.



Student Sponsorship Program

We are currently looking for student sponsors to assist with the ongoing support of secondary and tertiary students. The Foundation has supported over 100 students through primary secondary and tertiary schooling including a peak of 80 students enrolled in the program. Many have gone onto vocational training that has allowed them to gain meaningful employment in hospitality, information and technology and education.

The Foundation currently supports 18 students, 7 of which are studying bachelor's degrees at college and 11 who are currently in secondary school (high school and senior high school). All students within the program commenced with the Foundation at the beginning of their education journey.

Students participating in the program are required to maintain minimum grade and performance levels for continuation within the sponsorship program.

All fees paid via RAWCS (Australia) qualify for Australian Taxation Receipts.

The Annual; Sponsorship Fee will provide the students with the following:

- School Fees
- School Uniforms, including shoes and school bag
- School Books
- School Project Costs
- Transport
- Access to internet services via a communal Wi-Fi supported by the Foundation

Sponsorship Fees

Cararoo Foundation is a non-for-profit organisation. Our Board are all volunteers and take no payment for management of the Foundation. All fees raised go towards the educational requirements of the students and programs to support the success of each students and families enrolled within the program.

If you would like to register to sponsor a student, please email Samoan Fuller at samoan.cararoo@gmail.com. Annual sponsorship fees are as follows:

- **Secondary Student - \$720 (AUD) / \$25,200 (PP)** per annum or **\$60 (AUD) / \$2,100 (PP)** per month.
- **Tertiary Student - \$1500 (AUD) / \$52,500 (PP)** per annum or **\$125 (AUD) / \$4,375 (PP)** per month.

If you are unable to provide a full sponsorship of a student, part sponsorships would be greatly accepted or alternatively a small donation towards the sponsorship program would assist us in continuing this program.



Website Development and Social Media

The Foundation is currently building a new website to showcase the efforts and achievements of the Foundation. The new address for the Foundation is www.cararoorfoundation.com. If you visit the site, you will notice the existing website that was formerly attached to the Foundation. Unfortunately, the website has several errors, and it has become difficult to correct these, therefore the Foundation is in the process of building a new site which we anticipate will be up and running towards the end of October / start of November.

Our Facebook page is still active so if you would like to find out more information, please visit the Cararoo Foundation page.

Alternatively, if you would like more information about the Foundation, please email Samoan at samoan.cararoo@gmail.com.



Our Sponsors and Individuals - Thankyou

