



## School & Project News



June 2026

Consider making a  
**TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
DONATION**  
Before June 30



# STUDENTS GRADUATE

## *Bicol Deaf Action - Philippines*

Bicol Deaf Action recently held its 42nd Graduation Day, and we couldn't be prouder! Eight Deaf students graduated from Grade 12.

*Congratulations to these  
graduating yr12 students:*

- Franzimiel Nueca
- Jan Benedict Gomez
- John Lorence Biron
- Joselle Requiza
- Juliana Villareal
- Kristel Joy Sanchez
- Rona Mae Gomez
- Yeshua Gile
- John Cordova (H)



These students worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone. We also celebrated the achievements of nine Grade 10 students, three Grade 6 students, and two Kindergarteners. The school is now enjoying a well-deserved break before the new school year begins on 8th June 2026.

### **Bicol Farm**

We are thrilled to share that the farm quarters are officially complete! Now totally renovated and with a fresh coat of paint, our farm houses are now a decent place to call home, all thanks to the generous supporters of Deaf Action and the Garden Church in Los Angeles.

The farm fence is also finished, and our agricultural projects are thriving. We continue to plant more coconuts and vegetables, and our chilli plants are finally bearing fruit. This is a wonderful sign, as we prepare to launch our chilli garlic oil production—a new step toward our goal of self-sustainability.

To help manage the limited water supply during the hot season, we have installed a new water pump. Since water often only becomes available late in the evening, the pump allows us to store what we need. We have also laid down new water pipes near the crops, which will save our workers a great deal of time and energy when watering the plants.



## KENYA

### Immanuel Integrated Christian School (IICS)

Immanuel Integrated Christian School (IICS) has had a wonderful start to the year! The academic year was officially launched with an opening ceremony involving both students and staff. We are pleased to report that student attendance rates have improved compared to previous terms.



There has been a noticeable improvement in literacy and numeracy across the lower year levels. To support our diverse learners, IICS introduced differentiated instruction strategies, alongside an increased use of teaching aids and technology. The successful implementation of structured lesson plans across all grades has led to measurable growth in student comprehension, problem-solving, and

active participation. Continuous assessment results show steady progress, particularly in reading fluency and basic mathematics, as students become more confident and independent in their work.

To foster a love of books, IICS has promoted a vibrant reading culture through daily scheduled reading times, classroom reading corners, and full library access for all students. Reading competitions and storytelling sessions have been built on the foundation of the extended reading program that was introduced and nurtured by DMI supporter Kathi Kitao.



*Students in the library*

These initiatives, along with our Literacy Week celebrations, have greatly contributed to improved reading fluency and comprehension. During mid-term assessments, we were also proud to identify and award our top-performing students.

Throughout the quarter, we held Parent-Teacher meetings to strengthen the collaboration between home and school.



Our school farming project has also flourished! The expansion of the farm yielded an increase in produce, including bananas and poultry. We celebrated an Environmental Awareness Day to focus on sustainability, and our farm continues to cultivate maize, beans, and leafy greens. Students have been hands-on with planting, weeding, and harvesting, and

this fresh produce now supports our school feeding programs. Agriculture has also been beautifully integrated into the school curriculum.

The students' talents truly shone during a showcase performance featuring music, drama, and the creative arts. They also continue to enjoy co-curricular activities, including various sports and clubs. Through Scouts camping, students are developing vital life skills and vocational training, while our cooking and sign language classes continue to enhance our inclusive education practices.



*Scout group*

Our teachers have been hard at work as well, completing professional development sessions conducted by the Ministry of Education at the district level. Through collaborative planning and effective classroom management, they remain committed to delivering high-quality lessons and providing continuous feedback to our students.



*Teachers' development day*

A huge congratulations to the students who participated in the Science Congress — they performed exceedingly well! The school buildings have received some updates. IICS purchased new desks and chairs, renovated the school gate, and gave the school bus a fresh look with a new coat of paint and new tires.



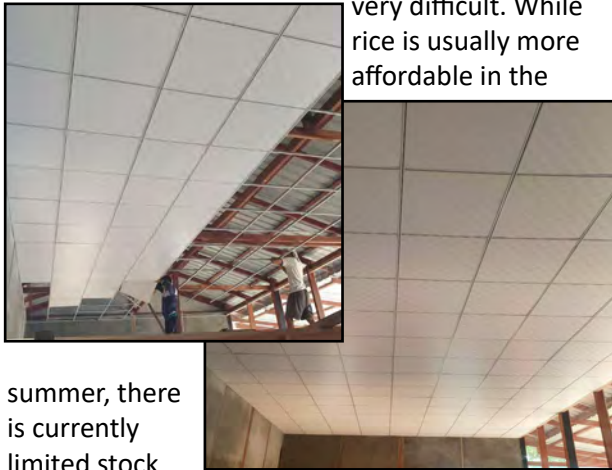
## MYANMAR

The academic year has officially finished for the students at Muir School for the Deaf. The students are now enjoying their long summer holidays, which will continue until the last week of May.



The school has successfully completed the installation of new insulated ceilings, which will be vital for keeping out both the summer heat and the monsoonal rains. However, our main concern remains the food supply. Because many local farms were unable to harvest, conditions have remained

very difficult. While rice is usually more affordable in the



summer, there is currently limited stock

to purchase in advance, and prices are expected to rise much higher once the rainy season begins.

Kalay remains quite isolated; travel is difficult for the community as high costs and the lack of bus services mean people are unable to travel in or out of town. We were, however, thrilled that school teacher Saw Monday was able to join Myanmar director Pa Lian and Yangon church Pastor Naing Naing Kyow at DMI's 9th International Conference in Cebu earlier this month. Our thanks to the supporter who enabled this. Saw Monday was so happy to be at the conference and benefited from the teaching and fellowship.



From left: Pa Lian Thein, Naing Naing Kyow, Soe Htet Aung, Saw Monday

## WE NEED A HAND



IICS middle school building is falling into terrible disrepair and desperately needs renovation. Initially built as the first stage of construction for a middle school and high school (to be built above the middle school classrooms), a proper roof was never put in place. As a result rain has made holes in the ceiling and is damaging the classrooms at an alarming rate.

We need USD\$60,000 to repair the damage and construct the high school classrooms above. This will not only finish the building but enable us to complete the school as a K-12 educational institution, maintaining the highest standard of education that our students are receiving right through to the end of their secondary schooling.

If you're able to help, please contact:  
[andrew.miller@deafmin.org](mailto:andrew.miller@deafmin.org)

## PHILIPPINES Bacolod Boarding House

On January 23rd of this year, Deaf students from Bacolod City National High School travelled to Cadiz City to participate in a sports competition for people with disabilities. Many different schools took part in this exciting event, which was held during the 51st Dinagsa Festival.

Several students from the Boarding House were selected to compete in chess, dance, and various sports. They represented their school well, bringing great honor to us all through their participation and the awards they received. The event showcased not only their athletic skills but also their resilience and determination. As they competed, these students inspired their peers and fostered a sense of community and pride among everyone involved.



A special shout-out to Mona Fulgar, who emerged as the champion in chess! Congratulations, Mona! You have made us all so proud!

Bacolod City National High School held a Recognition Day to celebrate student achievements. Jenesel Hentil (Grade 7), Mona Fulgar (Grade 8), Mary Montero, and Hannah Lawas (Grade 9) all received Certificates of Honor.



Jenesel



Mona



Mary



Hannah

They have worked so hard and truly deserved their Academic Excellence Awards with Honors for the second quarter of the school year.

# DMI CONFERENCE PHILIPPINES MAY 4-8 2026



DMI's 9th International Conference was held from 4th May to 8th May 2026 in beautiful Cebu, Philippines. DMI and Deaf Action field workers, staff, volunteers, representatives, supporters, and partners from all over the world gathered for a wonderful week of presentations, sessions, and fun. It was full-on, with activities every day to keep us occupied. It was wonderful to meet school staff, students, field workers, and representatives in person after years of communicating

by email. Both David and I were fortunate to make new connections and reacquaint ourselves with others nearly a decade after our last conference in Norway in 2017.

On the last night of the conference, we were treated to a number of beautiful traditional Filipino dances by the students and staff. With their gorgeous handmade costumes and dazzling choreography, their performances were the highlight of the conference!



Thank you to Albert and Kim (Bacolod Boarding House) for organising such a wonderful conference!

Kay van Namen  
Sponsorship Coordinator



## Can you give the gift of sponsorship?

These students need your support.



Sheiryn Oriola  
(Girl) Grade 11  
PHILIPPINES (Ligao)



Lal Nun Mawi-i  
(Girl) Grade 4  
MYANMAR



Ebiana Saulona  
(Boy) Grade 3  
DR CONGO



Zaren Concardas  
(Boy) Grade 7  
BACOLOD

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our website:  
<https://deafmin.org/student-sponsorship/>  
or email: [info@deafaction.org.au](mailto:info@deafaction.org.au)

# DR CONGO



Beni School for the Deaf celebrated Women's Day on March 8th at the school. A session about women's rights was held and attended by girls and women at the school and in the local community.



Beni School for the Deaf continues to serve lunch regularly to its students through the support provided by Deaf Child Hope via the student and teacher sponsorship program. The school garden also produced spinach and maize, which were distributed to the students and teachers. The school is grateful to Deaf Child Hope for its continued support of the teachers and the Principal.



Maize growing in the school's kitchen garden.

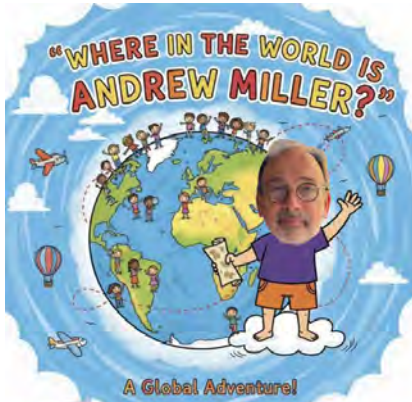
## Weddings in Ligao



Long-term Bicol Deaf Action teacher - and former student of the school - Aser Milarpes married his sweetheart, Sheila, at the school chapel on the morning of May 12 with Pastor Arnel, local Pastor Jun and Andrew Miller officiating. It was a beautiful ceremony and the whole school came out to witness the event.



In the afternoon another Deaf couple Archie and Rachelle also married in a simple yet lovely ceremony at the school chapel. It's wonderful to be able to provide means for Deaf couples to experience the joy and dignity of Christian marriage.



Andrew's travel schedule has been drawn up for this year and once again he has been overly enthusiastic. Therefore, we encourage supporters to make the most of his inordinate scheduling. Please note where and when Andrew will be and contact us to make room for a church, school or community group visit so we can share about DMI's and Deaf Action's work.

FEB	AUSTRALIA
UNITED STATES	MAR
APR/ MAY	JAPAN/PHILIPPINES UNITED STATES
UNITED STATES /PHILIPPINES	MAY/JUN JUL
JUL/ AUG	AUSTRALIA/ NEW ZEALAND

JAPAN/ UNITED STATES	SEP
OCT	AUSTRALIA
JAPAN/ UNITED STATES	NOV
DEC	AUSTRALIA

andrew.miller@deafmin.org

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

### AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISING DATES

Australian supporters, mark your calendars and start your engines. Event dates for the year have been set. Please join us at any and all of the following fundraising events:

**JULY 25 (SAT)**  
**SYDNEY TRIVIA NIGHT**

**AUGUST 15 (SAT)**  
**MELBOURNE TRIVIA NIGHT**

**OCTOBER 16 (FRI)**  
**SYDNEY FUNDRAISING DINNER**  
*(to be held in a venue hosting one of Australia's most exclusive private collections of exotic, classic and super cars)*

# Consider making a TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION Before June 30



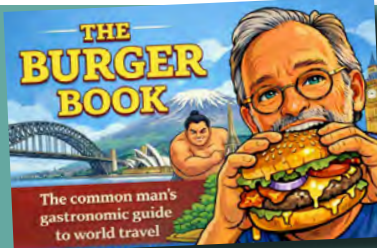
We would like to thank you – our supporters – so much for your generosity towards our campaigns, operations and general fund over the last year. We simply cannot do the work we are doing without your help. Every dollar is precious and used wisely.

Every dollar makes a tangible difference to the Deaf in our fields. Every month we send out sizeable budgets to cover salaries, rents, equipment purchase and maintenance, project developments and so on. We found that donors love to give to projects and we are grateful for this! But the above expenses – vital for our operations – are paid from our General Fund, which doesn't quite give the same tingle to donors as a project completed. Our General Fund keeps us going.

**Would you please consider giving a generous tax deductible donation to our General Fund before June 30 to help us keep as many Deaf students as possible in school and young adults at work?**

*For Tax deductible donations, Donations need to be made through Deaf Action. Ref: generalfund*

# HOT OFF THE PRESS!



An unnamed senior manager in DMI's ranks, tired from constant travel and the misery of foreign food, has just published the consummate food guide to world travel. Writing under the name Ben Addiction, The Burger Book has hit the market running:

*Ben Addiction takes you on a journey – 40 burgers in 40 weeks over 5 continents – to find the best (and worst) burgers on the planet – sampling them, reviewing them, cursing them and licking his fingers. It's all here. Your flight leaves now...*

A fun book, all profits of the book sales go to DMI. So buy up in bulk as these make great gifts and it will help tremendously with DMI's/DA's struggling general fund coffers.

Purchases can be made directly from the publisher. Search online for Lulu Publishing or go to <https://www.lulu.com/shop>, type 'burger book' in the search bar, then go crazy!



Andrew Miller  
International Director



Matthijs Terpstra  
International  
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai  
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack  
Communications  
Coordinator



Kay van Namen  
Sponsorship &  
Administration  
Coordinator

*Thank you for continuing to support our school students, teachers and self-sustainability projects.*

*Warm regards,  
Kay (Sponsorship Coordinator)*



[www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/](http://www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/)

## DA DONATIONS:

School, Employment and  
Aid Projects

*(tax deductible in Australia)*



Please make cheques payable to:  
Deaf Action



Details for bank Transfer:

BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263



Credit Card facility available  
through PayPal (secure) on our  
website.



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**Sponsorship Coordinator:**

**Kay van Namen**

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Neville Muir (OAM)  
& Lill Muir  
DMI & DA Founders