The little-known Kinatarkan Island located at the Northernmost tip of Cebu, Central Philippines was one of the most devastated areas in this region of the Philippines after the super-typhoon Haiyan swept across the islands in late 2013. Lying in the direct path of the super howler, the island however withstood the storm’s one-minute sustained winds of 315 kilometres per hour that brought in four-meter storm surges which battered much of its eastern coast.

While Haiyan upturned this largely fishing community, the island emerged from the typhoon without a single loss of life but not without sustained damage to the economy.

The survivors are now slowly picking up the pieces of their lives and rebuilding a future on their own amidst little aid from the government and humanitarian groups.

However, the Augustinians of the Philippines are working with the islanders on a project to produce and market a local herbal crop. The project’s most immediate need is for a large drying house. Come in Villanova AFAS—old boys, staff and parents! A group of these ‘elders’ have undertaken to build the crop drying house this December.

**Nitty gritty**

*Where:* We will be visiting the Augustinian Mission on Kinatarkan Island

*When:* Depart Saturday November 26th – Friday December 9th

*Project:* Known to the Filipino as a Hot house; the structure will be roughly 10 m x 20m and used to dry the locally grown Moringa

*Project costs:* All in total of $7,000 Australian dollars

*Personal cost:* Total of $2,500. Inclusive of all airfares, accommodation, transport and meals.

**Fundraising**

With the majority of the labour and personal costs of the project being covered by the participants, many of the materials used for the project will need further funding. As such, within the following weeks, we will compile a special addition of the newsletter to be assembled in ‘Villa Voice’. This will list a variety of materials still needed for the project. For now, however, we are opening an AFAS Elders account under the supervision of Villanova College. We politely ask that you may contribute to perhaps some of the equipment and materials required to produce the drying shelter.

**Account details**

BSB: 064-107
Account number: 00900613
Account name: VILLANOVA COLLEGE
Reference: AFAS Elders

“I found it challenging accepting the praise the communities gave us.”

~ AFAS 2015 exchange
Villanova College Principal Mr. Mark Stower announces new College outreach.

At the end of 2016, the inaugural AFAS Elders building project will be undertaken by a group of Old Boys, parents and staff on Kinatarcan Island in the Philippines. The project being undertaken will involve building a hot house for the drying of the moringa plant. The project is the first stage of a long term development plan that the Filipino Augustinians and Fair Trade Philippines have designed for the island and will benefit all families.

A picture is worth a 1000 words...

As you would have seen in the last edition of AFAS Elders newsletter, banners of the 2015 exchange have been hung around the college to remind both students who have been, and yet to go, the impact their actions on days like Mission day hold.

By contributing in smalls ways such as picking up the left over litter at their lunch tables, contributing in classroom discussions or just being that ‘older brother’ to the junior schools, Villanova students embody what it means to be a part of AFAS. It is therefore the responsibility of AFAS Elders to provide similar opportunities after school life to those who are unable to attend while at the college.

2015 AFAS student after visiting Sam’s home...

“For me it was the way I had to suppress my reactions to certain things; that was the biggest challenge. Seeing kids with rags and ripped clothes on compared to what I was used to was shocking. An example was when a group of us visited a scholar’s house and met his mum. The shock was their home which was made of bamboo. I felt like it wasn’t much at first, but the pride that the scholar had in their home really changed my perspective on it.”

2015 Mission day

This year, we invited past AFAS students back to the college to raise awareness for AFAS and AFAS Elders alike. The day was a major success, and we hope that next year we can continue to build upon the momentum built by 2015 Mission day.

“AFAS gave me the fantastic opportunity to provide meaningful, direct support to children in need. My experience with AFAS culminated in the Philippines trip which was a truly unique experience and provided me with a level of perspective that has helped me with my subsequent tertiary education and professional career.” ~ Ian Desouza 2009