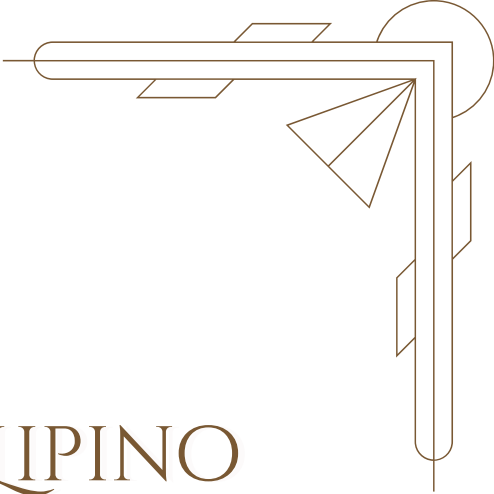
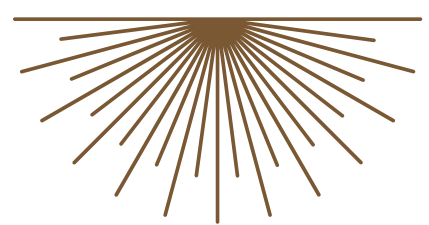
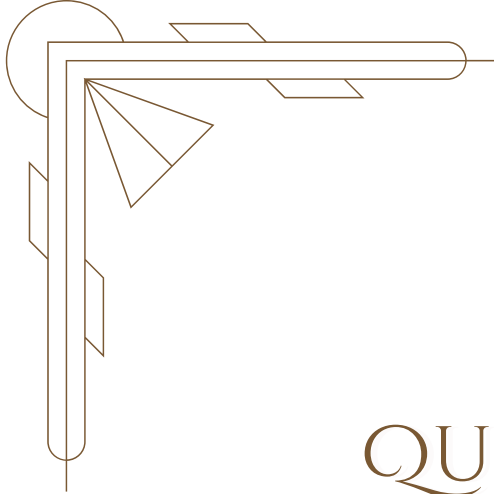




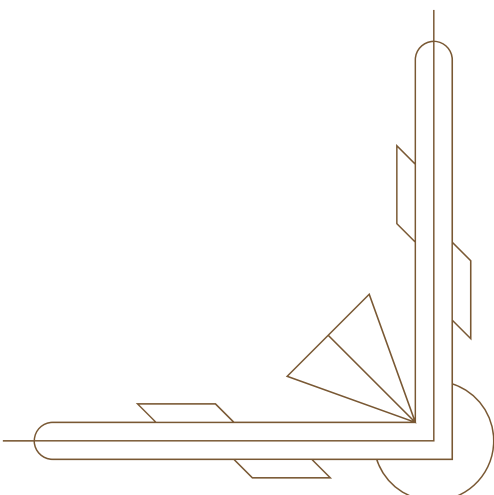
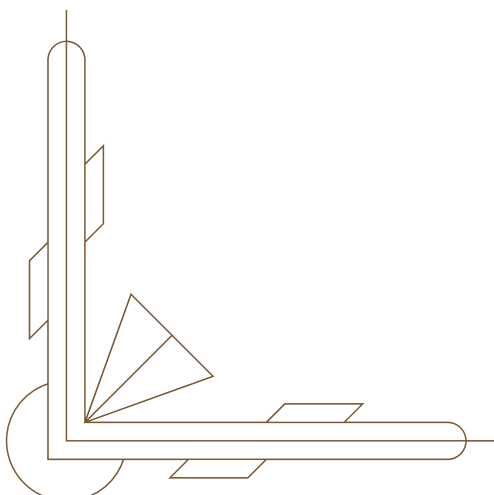
QUEENSLAND FILIPINO EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024

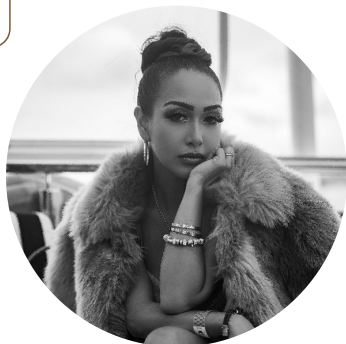


*Nominees for
Excellence Awards in Arts,
Culture, Entertainment and Sports*



Q F E A





Chona Allen

As a published model, artist and designer, Chona fuses her two passions together in an unparalleled manner. She upholds women empowerment and confidence building on the fashion scene, supporting organisations that promote diversity and inclusion. She has her own niche as a micro-influencer, integrating her art into the fashion industry. She promotes a "sustainable fashion" by up-cycling and recycling used dresses, turning them into timeless pieces by decorating the materials with her unique style of artwork.



Alanah Bautista

Alanah Bautista was born in Manila Philippines on May 28 and grow up in Brisbane. She currently lives in the Gold Coast. Her ethnicity is Asian/Spanish and is a talented young Australian-Filipina actress. She was casted at Global Hollywood Netflix adaptation of the movie "Boy Swallows Universe" as 'Dang' the spy housemaid. She had more Film Projects in her IMBDPRO. Alanah is humble to people with her beautiful heart and soul.



Helen Bishop

Helen Maree Mendoza - Bishop is a Filipino-Australian educator community advocate and title holder of the Mrs. Globe Philippines Classique 2022. Her accolades include being awarded the Global Achievers Award for Fashion/Culture in Turkey and launched MODA FILIPINA at the 2023 Paris Fashion Show. Helen teaches at KWSC and promote International Pageantry Globally. She supports charitable endeavours like the Filipino-Australian Foundation Queensland Search for FAFQ Charity Queen providing financial aid to deserving Filipino migrant students in Queensland. She aims for tangible outcomes and is poised to represent the Philippines at the Mrs. International Pageant in the USA scheduled July 2024.



Maynah Borja - Erece

Maynah was a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship at the University of Southern Queensland, where she completed her dual degree in the Bachelor of Arts (major in Creative & Critical Writing), and the Bachelor of Science (major in Psychology) with First Class Honours. She was a speaker at the 2019 World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children at Vanderbilt University in the United States of America. Utilising her background in classical ballet, contemporary and lyrical from the Royal Academy of Dance, and commercial dance from Dance College London, Maynah is the program co-ordinator of the Grand Autumn Festival in Springfield, that made her as a finalist in the Multicultural Australia Spirit of Resilience Award of the 2023 7-News Young Achiever Awards in Queensland. She released a historical fiction book that she had co-authored about three stories across the generations of her family's line.



Carein Carpio

Founder and owner of AL 4 Beauty Hair and Makeup Artistry. On June 19, 2023 she was crowned as one of Brisbane's Best by Courier Mail. She came 1st place out of a pool of 700 nominees. She was the 1st Filipino who won first place in the field of makeup artistry in Brisbane. She was also awarded Excellence in Business by Australia Global Fair in 2023. Her Expertise in makeup artistry and hair styling gave her a role to run and be the head of the Glam Team in Pageantries both local and international. Overflowing with passion over her craft, she delivers professional service and has a vibrant personality that makes her fun to work with.



Alma Colledge

Alma Medina Colledge was born in Manila, Philippines and graduated Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communication Engineering in Polytechnic University of the Philippines. She currently work as a Senior Data Analyst with Services Australia for the last 24 years. She is a mother and a doted wife of the late Gregory Thomas Colledge. Aside from her normal office work she is very much involved in hosting a lot of Filipino events. She also have been working as a part-time singer and entertainer in a lot of corporate functions here in Brisbane. Singing and entertaining is her passion and she will not stop as long as she ca share these talents to people. Seeing people enjoy her craft is something that she will take with her forever.



Daniel Mallari

Bataan-born (child number 13 of 15), Daniel became a proud Filipino-Australian in 2003. His three decades in the entertainment industry as an international award-winning performer/respected Creative Producer, have seen him coined by The Philippine Times as 'The Filipino Pride' in Australia. Daniel is a proud Filipino ambassador within the Filipino-Australian and international community, waving the flag and representing his heritage at performances globally. His production company D&G Entertainment draws on his experience and contacts in the industry, to deliver numerous major events, festivals and fund-raising concerts throughout the year. A role model and mentor to those who seek his guidance.



Dixie Morante

As a mother of three, realtor, and President of the Filipino-Australian Brisbane Society (FABS), Dixie demonstrates that with passion and commitment, anything is possible. Her love for Filipino dance, song and arts culminates in productions such as Hiraya to help the community and artists to learn more about Filipino culture, develop skills as artists, and be proud of their identity as Filipinos in Australia. FABS run workshops to educate and train present and future generations of Filipino-Australians in the art of Philippine folk dance and music. She played an instrumental part in promoting and sponsoring Filipino talent during Bayanihan Festival and Pinoy musicians in Music Festivals. Dixie is leaving a legacy in this world her children will be proud of.



Josiah Navarro

Josiah founded Astigfish in 2009 as a clothing line, collaborating with renowned hip-hop artists from Manila and Brisbane. Transitioning to focus on art and designer toys, he introduced his original character Junta, sold out immediately upon release. It led Josiah to expand the Junta universe through collaborations with 130+ artists worldwide, culminating in the artbook "Junta from Brisvegas." Josiah's artistic vision extends to music, collaborating with hip-hop artists like Anygma, Mike Kosa, and Mista Blaze creating a track for Junta. Elevating Brisbane in the urban art and designer toy scene, Josiah showcases the city in his Instagram posts and Junta's storyline, shown in his 2023 art show at Netherworld.



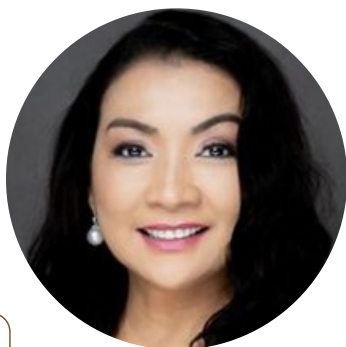
George William Nield

George attained his Bachelor of Business, Majors in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Bond University. George plays Rugby Union, which is a leading sport for men and women at Bond University, Gold Coast. Its national and international achievements are a significant reason for its status among high-performance sports. George was under 20 Captain at Bond University in 2021-2022. He was the best and fairest under-20 Player. He was also the Captain of the Bond University Colts rugby team. George is currently one of the players of the Philippine Volcanoes, the Philippines National Rugby Union team, who represents the Philippines in international rugby union.



Alex Salvador

A musician, percussionist and Drum Circle Facilitator based in Townsville North Queensland where he has lived since 1987 after migrating from Las Piñas City, Philippines. For 28 years he worked full-time serving migrants and refugees and thousands of international students. He is best known for founding the longest ongoing local council funded Community Drum Circle in Australia - the Full Moon Drum Circle, founded in 2001 and funded by the Townsville City Council since 2004. In 2005 and in 2021, Alex was awarded the Australia Day Arts and Culture Award in Townsville. He also received the Young Citizen of the Year award in 1998 for his involvement in the community.



Lyn Shadbolt

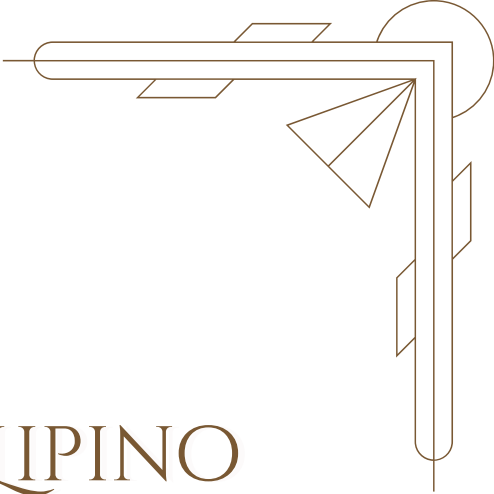
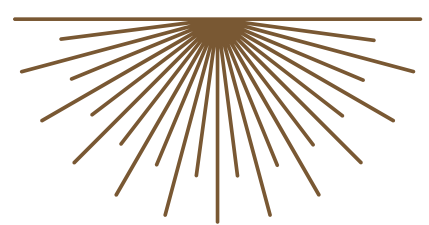
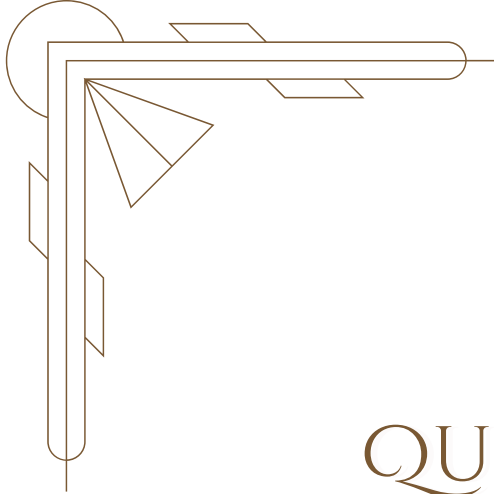
Lyn established Face of Australia Queensland in 2019. Since then, she and her team supported numerous candidates to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. Face of Australia Queensland provides candidates with a platform to become their best and most empowered versions of themselves. Lyn motivates, encourages and empowers candidates to develop personal growth, leadership, friendships and self-confidence. Lyn is also a fulltime employee of Bendigo Bank - Community Bank Logan, where she works as a Mobile Relationships Manager. She is passionate in assisting clients achieve financial goals for over 30 years. Lyn is also a loving wife and mother of 6 children.



Isabel Wetten

Having loved fashion from a very young age, Isabel has evolved in her craft as a director and producer of fashion runways and events. Isabel is the Co-CEO and Creative Director of Queensland Arts & Fashion Festival, the largest independently ran and owned fashion and creatives incubator in Australia. Her biggest show to date was entitled Flores de Mayo in partnership with Gold Coast Fashion Project in 2023. It was proudly supported by a grant from Gold Coast City Council. The show was dedicated to all the mothers in our lives which was held on the night before Mother's Day.





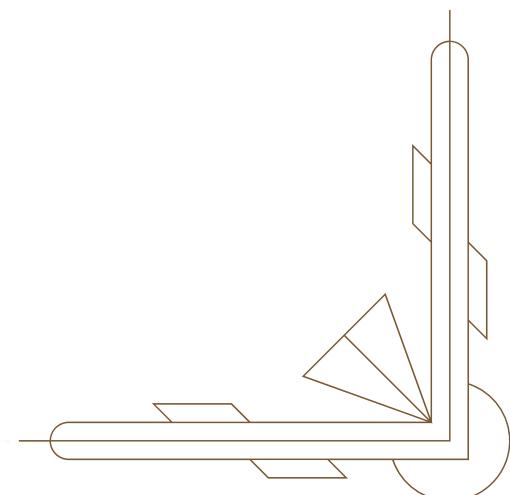
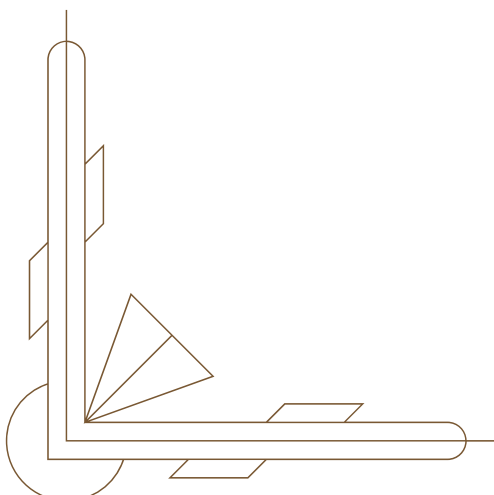
QUEENSLAND FILIPINO EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024



*Nominees for
Excellence Awards in Business
Commerce and Industry*



Q F E A





Ian Abadiano

Founder of Coffee Mentality, Brisbane-based grower, roaster and retailer of award-winning specialty coffee. His journey into the world of coffee began with a mobile café at the West End Markets in 2011, eventually leading to the establishment of his first permanent café in South Brisbane in 2016. Since then, Coffee Mentality has expanded its footprint, opening an espresso bar in Stones Corner and an East Brisbane store, along with a recent addition of a roastery in Woolloongabba in 2021. Driven by a sense of purpose, Ian is committed to minimizing the environmental impact of coffee production. He initiated projects such as the Urban Coffee Project, which introduced Brisbane's first urban-grown coffee, showcasing his dedication to sustainability. Furthermore, Coffee Mentality collaborates closely with coffee farmers in the Philippines, sharing expertise in coffee production to enhance crop quality and uplift livelihoods within the community.



Jairus Aguilar

Jairus Aguilar is the visionary Director of Flow Autobody Solutions, a trailblazing bodyshop nestled in Enoggera, Queensland. With a steadfast commitment to excellence, Jairus has steered the company on a path that emphasizes a positive impact on all stakeholders, especially the team and customers. Under his leadership, Flow Autobody Solutions is dedicated to fostering a world-class team, a crucial cornerstone for delivering unparalleled customer experiences. Jairus's innovative approach and dedication to quality have not only set new standards in the auto repair industry but also cultivated a culture where excellence thrives, ensuring every customer leaves with a smile.



Ian Banghal

Foodchitecture has always been his genuine Philosophy. The allure of good food, design and use of shapes, sizes, colours and space, have been his goal when creating beautiful and healthy meal with gastronomic delight and pleasing to the eyes. He always had the passion for cooking. He dreamt of putting up his own place, where people could gather, enjoy and love what he makes for them. People expressing enjoyment, satisfaction, and happiness towards his cooking, pays for all his hard work. It's not just about food, it is the whole process from preparation to presentation. He wants to be able to deliver a delicious masterpiece.



Laidee Charmaine Bell

Laidee Charmaine has helped so many Filipino clients and is the number one Filipino mortgage broker in Queensland with her team writing over \$10m in loans per month. Charmaine's passion is for finance, property, education and wealth creation for her Filipino clients. Her extensive experience in the finance industry ranges from Financial Markets, Treasury and over 20 years experience as a Mortgage Broker professional. She helped so many Filipino clients achieve home ownership. Many of these clients become investors, which Charmaine then helps with growing their property portfolio. A brilliant example of a Filipino helping Filipinos, who can then help other Filipinos.



Rafael Bergola

Rafael Bergola is the founder and CEO of Fligno, a dynamic IT company based in Australia. Born in the Philippines and raised in Australia, he envisions bridging Filipino talents in software development with opportunities in Australia. Fligno, founded as a testament to the potential of young Filipino entrepreneurs, boasts a dedicated team of over 200 accomplished Filipino professionals from diverse regions. The company is committed to delivering top-notch digital solutions to renowned international corporations. Rafael's leadership drives Fligno's mission to showcase Filipino expertise and innovation on the global stage.



Zubie Brown

Zubie Brown is a pioneer in her field, establishing one of the first influencer agencies in Australia. Her background in PR and lover of fashion helped catapult her career in the digital marketing and talent management space. After 6 years in operation her agency was acquired by an international entertainment company Gushcloud Pte Ltd where she joined the team to establish the Australian office. By 2023 and as a serial entrepreneur she decided to step out again and founded ZB creator studios where she is now focusing on providing bespoke influencer management and production services for brands. Zubie has worked with some big names in the industry and continues to manage the publicity and social media posts for fellow filipinas such as Sarah Magusara and Lily May Mac. Zubie's passion is to help others reach their full potential by creating business opportunities through key collaborations and also giving her clients the confidence and trust in themselves to strive for greatness.



Gloria Collins

As a Registered Migration Agent, New Zealand Licensed Immigration Adviser, and Qualified Education Agent Counsellor, Gloria carved a remarkable path in guiding individuals through the complexities of migration. Gloria's journey started from her roots as a nurse to becoming a distinguished figure in the migration field in Australia and New Zealand. Her nursing career, marked by roles such as clinical nurse consultant, nurse manager, and clinical facilitator for Griffith University, showcased her dedication to healthcare and education. In 2002, Gloria ventured to the USA in 2007, working as a Registered Nurse before returning to Australia with her husband Michael in 2010. The transition from nursing to migration was seamlessly achieved and flourished after successfully completing the Australian Migration course from the Australian National University.



Imelda Kateb

Imelda R Kateb is the CEO of K and R Twin Holdings which trades under the businesses 7 Days Florist, Brisbane Flowers, Brisbane Flowers Weddings. In 1990, she moved to Brisbane with her husband and two daughters. After a brief stint with a few companies, embarked on a project to revolutionise the florist industry in a way to resolutely compete with international brands. Armed with a degree in accounting, and extensive project finance and marketing experience gained from working on the corporate level with companies in New York and California, she launched a unique one-stop florist organisation. Created a universal brand, its most important asset, which is now known world-wide, synonymous with a unique trading style, high quality products and service. Her businesses have garnered various awards notably the Annual Bridal Industry awards, Easy Weddings Award for Excellence, Three Best Rated Florists in Brisbane, and have been featured constantly on Today Tonight, Channel 7, and various publications. To this day, 28 years on, her businesses remain a trailblazer in the florist industry in Australia and worldwide.



Irene Lorico

Founder/CEO of Skinsentials, highly qualified Registered Nurse in Australia and the Philippines. Irene specialises in Advanced Cosmetic Injectables and has a successful practise on the Gold Coast. Her passion has led her to recently purchase the Gold Coast; first Potenza RF Micro-needling machine. Irene plans to expand her business to the Philippines and a Brisbane Clinic in the next 12 months. Completing a Masters of Nursing in the Philippines, she worked as an ER/Theatre nurse. Irene immigrated to Australia and completed her bridging course and still works in ER at GCPH to keep her skills up to date.



Gina Buenvenida Luck

Gina Buenvenida Luck is the Brand Ambassador of pharmaceutical industry for over 25 years. Currently, the Managing Director of Lucky Life Pty Ltd and Business Director for Eastern Pharma Pty Ltd specialising in managing brands/companies from start up to becoming multimillion dollar businesses, creating value and opportunity for economic growth. Gina is the only female to win a government award in the 2007 Premiers Export Award in Logan and Redlands. Currently, the President of the Queensland Filipino Australian Arts Association, Incorporated (QFAAA) and the International Trade Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Australia Philippines, Incorporated (CCIAP).



Ginger Mendoza

After honing her skills at the esteemed Centre for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA), Ginger embarked on a career that took her to Australia and cross continents. From the kitchens of superyachts in the United States and Europe, where she served as a private chef, to the prestigious halls of Institut Paul Bocuse in Lyon, France where she continued her culinary education. Ginger's commitment to her craft knew no bounds. Each experience deepened her understanding of flavours, techniques, and the art of cooking and hospitality. Today, as the founder of Ginger's Kitchen Pty, Ltd (est 2019), a culinary haven that houses two beloved baking brands. Batch Cookie Bar and Lunar Pies (empanadas) where she invites others to experience the warmth and richness of Filipino culture, one bite at a time.



Jachin Navarro

Jachin Navarro, originally from Bacolod City Philippines and migrating to Australia in 1983, founded Navarro Enterprises in 2006. Beginning with just two bales of used clothes to Solomon Island, the company's initial export venture targeted the South Pacific. Today, Navarro Enterprises exports used clothing to 25 countries, including Dubai and Pakistan. Navarro's journey epitomizes resilience and ethical entrepreneurship, showcasing how dedication and sustainable practices can drive significant growth. His commitment to responsible commerce has not only propelled his company's success, but has also set a standard for socially conscious businesses worldwide. Jachin's story is a testament to the transformative power of his Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, his perseverance and integrity in business.



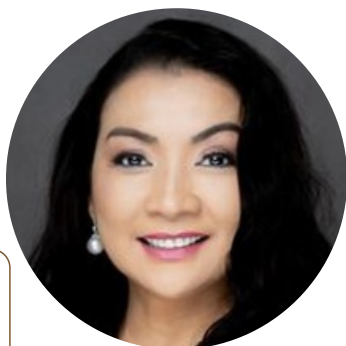
Christopher Ramos

Growing up, he witnessed his mother's constant setbacks in her micro businesses making single handedly raising 11 kids very challenging. This became his motivation to escape poverty – a better life for his mother and his family. Education was his only escape and his journey has taken him to the University of the Philippines, Australian National University, Sydney University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is currently a Business Advisor helping small businesses navigate entrepreneurship. He is also The Nomad Business Guru providing free financial literacy to the migrant community. He now call Brisbane home with Jotika and his daughter Justine.



Genesis Reyes

A devoted husband, father of four and a fisher of men. A qualified Registered Nurse and a Clinical Facilitator, turned restaurateur. Genesis, embodies excellence in entrepreneurship and community leadership. He has passionately showcased Filipino culture through his profession and as owner of Coffee Rounds Cafe at Kanto in Redcliffe, Kalye in Deception Bay, and Karinderia at Eat Street Northshore. Over the years these businesses have played a role in building the Filipino- Australian ties, sourcing from local suppliers, supporting community events, annual festivals, sponsoring teams and providing employment since 2014. His personal and professional journey, reflects a heartfelt commitment, to bringing the Filipino community together.



Lyn Shadbolt

Lyn established Face of Australia Queensland in 2019. Since then, she and her team supported numerous candidates to fulfill their dreams and aspirations. Face of Australia Queensland provides candidates with a platform to become their best and most empowered versions of themselves. Lyn motivates, encourages and empowers candidates to develop personal growth, leadership, friendships and self-confidence. Lyn is also a fulltime employee of Bendigo Bank - Community Bank Logan, where she works as a Mobile Relationships Manager. She is passionate in assisting clients achieve financial goals for over 30 years. Lyn is also a loving wife and mother of 6 children.



Daisy Smith

Daisy Smith was born and raised in Manila, Philippines and migrated to Australia in 2013. Daisy started her phone repairs business in 2013 in Hervey Bay and has built a successful small business over the last 11 years, with a reputation for exceptional customer service and quality of work she strives to be the best she can be for her customers and family. With juggling a business, family life and bringing a new baby boy into this world, the challenges never stop. Enjoying every moment good or bad that comes her way is her secret to a happy, healthy and successful life.



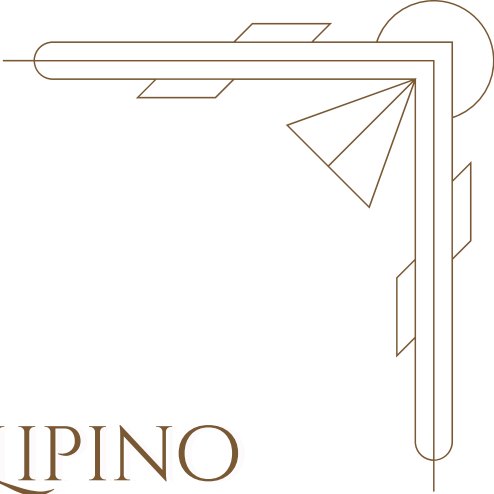
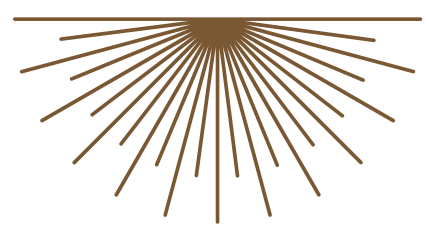
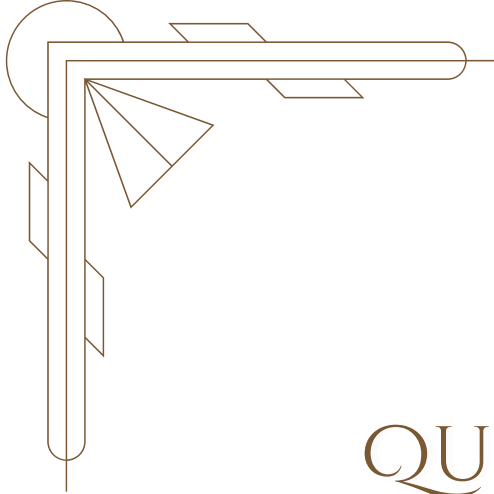
Alexander Tamayo II

Alexander Alnas Tamayo II, commonly known as Ace Tamayo, is a standout in business and the legal sector as a partner at Little Lawyers, a leading Australian law firm. Graduating with honours from the University of Queensland, Ace's leadership significantly expanded the firm's influence within the Filipino-Australian community, essential for national growth. Since 2019, Ace has led the firm's international expansion, introducing innovative offshore strategies, driving remarkable growth, and enhancing client service. Entrusted with ongoing global initiatives, Ace's team has thrived under his exceptional leadership, both locally and internationally, solidifying Little Lawyers' position as a major player in the legal industry. Ace's journey inspires, emphasising the importance of vision, resilience, and inclusive leadership.



Wendy Turnbull

A single parent and owns a Property Management Rights. Over the past six years, Wendy has taken on many different roles, and this experience has taught her numerous valuable skills that she never thought she would learn. She learned to think on her feet and come up with quick solutions to various problems. Meeting people from diverse backgrounds has been a privilege, and not only does she get to help them, but she also becomes a mentor. She enjoys sharing her story and success to give people hope and inspiration to keep going and never give up.



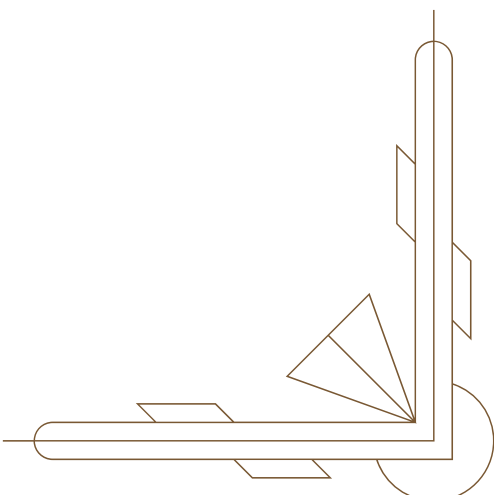
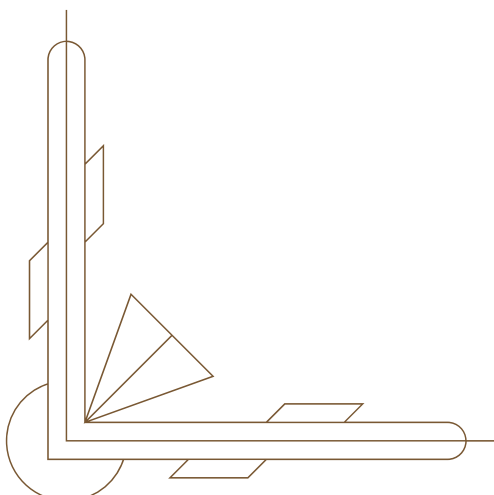
QUEENSLAND FILIPINO EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024



*Nominees for
Excellence Awards in
Community*



Q F E A





Guillermo Capati

Bill is a retired University of Queensland Adjunct Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineer. In 2017, he was awarded Engineers Australia Queensland Professional Engineer of the Year. A member of the St Vincent de Paul Society of Queensland, Bill currently does Vincentian volunteer work in the community. In 2023, he received the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Australia Day Achievement Award for Community Service. In 2024, he received the "Local Heroes" Community Service Award for Tennyson Ward. For his professional and volunteer work in the Philippines, he was conferred the "Pamana ng Pilipino" Presidential Award by President Duterte at Malacañang Palace in 2016.



Preciosa Deleverio

Preciosa Deleverio, born on April 13, 1970, in the Philippines, embarked on an educational journey to equip herself for aiding others. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Southwestern University in Cebu City, a Diploma of Nursing, and a Bachelor of Counselling from University of Sunshine Coast. Specialising in various areas, she completed training in domestic violence response, multicultural trauma treatment, and case management. As Director of Hope Counselling and Wellness Clinic, Preciosa supports individuals facing mental health challenges with empathy and collaboration. A registered Counsellor with the Australian Counselling Association, she ensures comprehensive care. Additionally, she founded Free to Flourish Community Support Group, offering free counselling and group therapy to empower individuals with social, emotional, and mental health issues.



Mena Theresa Edmondstone

Mena Theresa Edmondstone is regarded as the "tita, mother or lola" of the Filipino-Australian community in Queensland. She's well-respected for her selfless dedication, passion, and commitment to serving the community for 45 solid years and counting. She pioneered the celebration of Philippine Independence Day in Queensland. She started the Filipino language classes, delivered short courses on Filipino cuisine, seminars to temporary skilled workers, promoted the Filipino language resource book, delivered financial seminar, worked closely with the Department of Migrant workers in welcoming OFW. Mena served as the Refugee Coordinator of the Red Cross and was funded by the Department of Immigration Australia. In November 2016, Mena pioneered in bringing the Filipino Communities Council of Australia's (FILCCA) triennial convention to Toowoomba. She dreams of a community that uplifts and supports each other. One which promotes camaraderie and is wholeheartedly providing public service without personal gain.



Victoriano Estillo

Victoriano Estillo taught manual arts in various Emerald SHS and Brisbane high schools. He served as the President of the Filipino Australian Teachers' Association Queensland (FATAQ) from 1998 to 2021. He was instrumental in registering the FATAQ Constitution with Fair Trading Queensland. He introduced the Filipino Language Literacy program at Lawnton State School. He organized yearly Easter Ball fundraisers and provided charity sponsorship during the Covid-19 Pandemic. He participated in tree planting at Karawatha Forest with Ambassador Hellen dela Vega in 2021. Victoriano served in the Eucharistic ministry at St. Anthony Parish. He remains dedicated to FATAQ despite his busy schedule.



Efren Landicho

Efren embarked on a transformative journey in 2011 when he founded Response Driving School, driven by a tragic personal experience and a deep commitment to road safety. Prior to founding Response Driving School, Efren spent 23 years in the finance industry, holding various roles including mortgage broker, accountant, and insurance claims handler. For four years, he successfully managed a financial planning business and mortgage brokerage, assisting clients with their financial needs. Over the past 13 years, through Response Driving School, Efren has imparted his knowledge to thousands of students, spanning multiple generations. He continues to make a profound impact teaching road safety. Beyond the technical aspects of driving, Efren's passion lies in fostering a culture of safety within the community.



Dixie Morante

As a mother of three, realtor, and President of the Filipino-Australian Brisbane Society (FABS), Dixie demonstrates that with passion and commitment, anything is possible. Her love for Filipino dance, song and arts culminates in productions such as Hiraya to help the community and artists to learn more about Filipino culture, develop skills as artists, and be proud of their identity as Filipinos in Australia. FABS run workshops to educate and train present and future generations of Filipino-Australians in the art of Philippine folk dance and music. She played an instrumental part in promoting and sponsoring Filipino talent during Bayanihan Festival and Pinoy musicians in Music Festivals. Dixie is leaving a legacy in this world her children will be proud of.



Shirley Rosal Nield

Shirley is a Clinical Nurse in Queensland Health, based at the Gold Coast University Hospital. It is at the University of the Philippines, where Shirley experienced a top-notch intensive clinical rotation in both the hospital and the community. That is how she developed an enormous interest in community service. In the Philippines, she volunteered to take part in medical missions, where together with other health professionals provided health services in the remote areas of the country. Shirley had been showcasing her Philippine heritage and culture by cultural dancing in her kids' school and during cultural community events. Shirley considers herself blessed and is a proud mother of two sons, George and James, who are the love of her life.



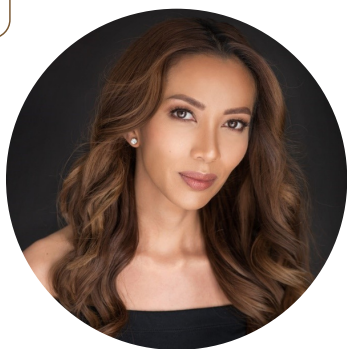
John Martin Nieva

Be a man for others" – this is taught as a central purpose of an Atenean. Jomar's 12 years in the Jesuit system as an Atenean combined with his 5 years studying in the University of the Philippines for his Industrial Engineering degree laid the foundation for Jomar's community service and volunteer work. Jomar's formative years and many years of international experience as a project manager and management consultant gives Jomar the skillsets to steer the Philippines-Australia Multicultural Association (PAMA) Inc. towards its mission to foster cross-cultural friendships and help uplift the Ipswich community and its surrounds through PAMA's community activities.



Sharon Olofernes

Sharon always strived to support the community. She actively shuns attention and is an epitome of a quiet achiever. She has been a volunteer coordinator of various Filipino organizations, a 4EB broadcaster and events volunteer. She also collaborated with FABS for outreach program in the Philippines. Her contribution is beyond the Filipino Community, but in Queensland at large. She is a member of Volunteering in Queensland. She's been a part of Queensland's Care Army during Covid-19 Pandemic, volunteered in Clean Up Australia, Brisbane Flooding, Special Children's Christmas Party and so on.



Dyan Paredes

Dyan is a commercial helicopter pilot and accomplished makeup artist. Since 2021, She has made an exceptional contribution to the community through her volunteer work training Assistance and Therapy dogs. Dyans' commitment to training these dogs has resulted in life-changing partnerships. Her dogs have visited hospitals, nursing homes, and schools, spreading love, warmth, and healing to those in need. Her impact extends well beyond the individuals directly touched by her work. She has fostered a more inclusive and compassionate community by raising awareness and advocating for the benefits of assistance and therapy dogs.



Cyrus Platon

After working at Cebu Pacific and Qatar Airways as flight attendant, Cyrus and his wife migrated to Australia, as an international student, taking up commercial cookery. After graduation, he found a sponsor for his permanent visa. Worked at the Marriott Hotel, Surfers Paradise as a chef. In 2015, Cyrus started Cychos'S Buffalo Wings at Currumbin and Miami Markets. A year later, got a food truck to reach more areas and events, eventually opened the restaurant on May of 2019. While Covid-19 has taken its toll on many businesses, it did not stop Cyrus from extending help to those who are in need. With his church community, Light of Jesus Family, they started Pay It Forward. This initiative has blessed hundreds of individuals and families mainly Filipino international students affected by the pandemic.



Perla Pound

Perla Pound was born in Mindanao in 1951, trained as a professional nurse/midwife, and arrived in Australia in 1990 after working in Saudi Arabia and USA. In Ipswich she dedicated her life to others by providing support to Philippine migrants, supporting missionary activities in the Philippines, and raising awareness of Philippine culture in the community. Perla's cultural achievements include founding the Karilagan Cultural Group in 1995 and the Philippines Rondalla Ensemble in 2005. The Rondalla is one of the few Philippine string ensembles outside the Philippines. The Rondalla is active in Ipswich and frequently performs on request in greater Brisbane.



Angeli Taylor

A Filipino-Australian nurse, defied her parents' objections to pursue her passion for nursing. After completing midwifery and working in Singapore, she earned a nursing degree at Queensland University of Technology Australia. Known as 'Nurse Angel', she's committed to enhancing dietary habits and dedicated to superior community nursing services. Active in Queensland's Filipino community, she advocates for education and job opportunities. Her notable accomplishments include establishing NURSE2CARE Community Nursing Services and earning several service recognitions. Guided by the motto "Doing Your Best, Leaving God the rest", Angeli strives to provide personalised, top-quality home care for healthier independent living



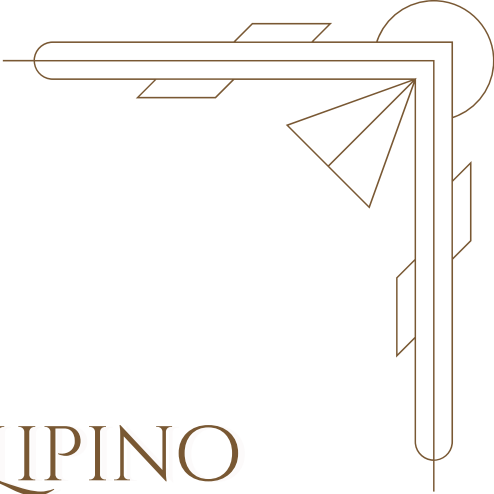
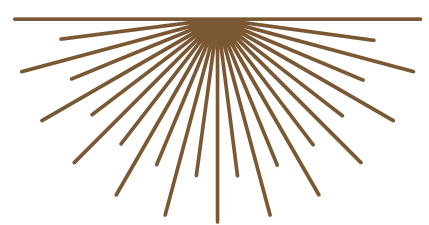
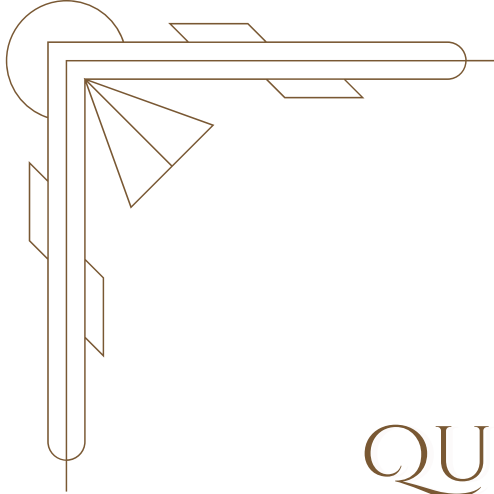
Aurelyn White

'Hailing from Southern Mindanao, Philippines, Lynn transplanted her roots to Australia in 2007, nurturing her intellect to secure a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, specialising in International Business and Human Resources. Tethered to numerous International Women Organizations, her mission extends beyond aesthetics. She ardently mentor and empower women, catalysing a positive societal impact that reveals both outer and inner beauty. Her commitment lies in serving the community with a seamless fusion of beauty and purpose.' Presently, a Certified Professional Stylist and Fashion Industry Specialist, serving as the visionary CEO of Ms. Oceania Pty Ltd and Aure Elegance International and Board of Director at the Queensland Filipino Australian Arts Association since 2021.



Esther Wilson

Esther has been passionate about helping raise money for the Cancer Council since 2010 by hosting Australia's Biggest Morning Tea. This year will mark her 10th participation in said charity event. Cancer Council works across every area of cancer, from research to prevention and support. As an organisation, it relies on individuals like her to raise much needed funds to someday realise its vision of a cancer free future. Esther has lived in Darwin before settling in Brisbane. She has also lived and worked in Brunei before migrating to Australia. Esther has been working with Wesley Mission for 10 years.



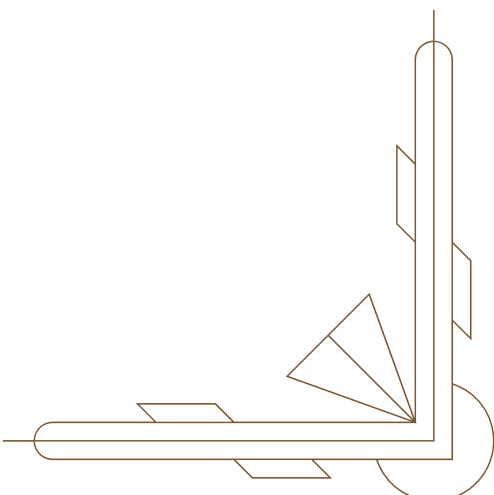
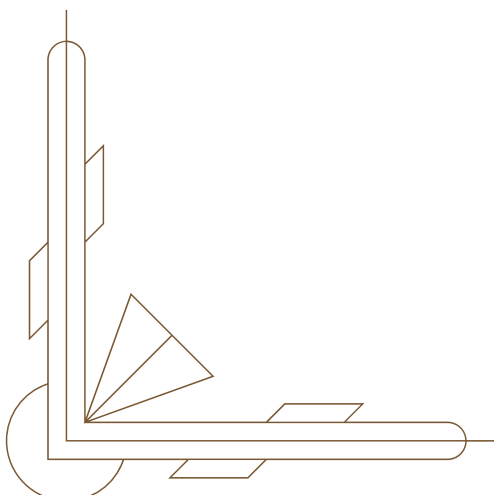
QUEENSLAND FILIPINO EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024



*Nominees for
Excellence Awards in
Science, Technology, Engineering
and Mathematics*



Q F E A





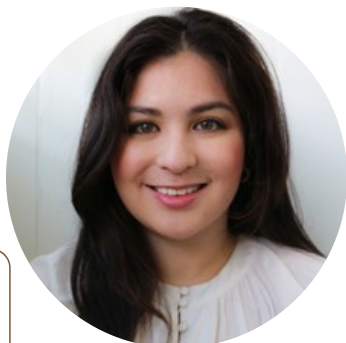
Charibel Agapito

Belle is a chemical engineering graduate from Philippines and has been working as control systems engineer. She has been deployed to several countries in Asia Pacific, US and finally settled in Australia with her husband Albert. Belle was part of commissioning team for oil and gas, chemical plants and water treatment services helping customers in completion of production plants and manufacturing. In her previous company, she also used to train customers and graduate engineers with their automation software and hardware. Her experience and knowledge has helped a lot of engineers contributing to control system automation profession.



Angel Boyd

Angel's story exemplifies Filipino tenacity and grit by overcoming poverty to earn an a degree in Accounting, through scholarships and support from relatives. Her professional ascent began at MSD Philippines, where she earned awards for her outstanding work in Finance and Logistics. In 2010, Angel migrated to Australia. Despite having to restart her career, she remained determined and eventually found her niche at Copperleaf Technologies, delivering impactful software solutions. Copperleaf solutions empower asset-intensive organisations to optimise their investment decision-making processes with the aim of transforming how the world sees value and building a better future.



Isabel Byram

Isabel thrives in multidisciplinary spaces, using her design thinking skills to apply technology to create value and meaning. Her career and research journey began in fashion design and business, evolving into how 3D technologies can be applied in healthcare. Isabel's work lives in the community through partnerships with healthcare services and industry, a key example of this are her uniform designs for Fortitude Valley State Secondary College and research projects with Herston Biofabrication Institute. Isabel is excited to continue building her career in the application of technologies to improve healthcare journeys.



Charisse Farr

Charisse Farr is an accomplished educator and researcher at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). With a background in applied mathematics and statistics, she is the Course Coordinator and Senior Lecturer at QUT. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Mathematics) from QUT, a Master of Science (Medic mathematics, statistics, and STEM activities). She actively teaches students in the Bachelor of Education (Secondary) degree and future STEM teachers at QUT where she delivers a different perspective. Charisse has been nationally and internationally recognised in her STEM education work with awards from QS Wharton, the Premier of Qld Export Awards, and most recently, the International Education Association of Australia. Charisse is a budding artist and photographer having one of her photos being part of the collection at the Ipswich Art Gallery.



Ivy Gabatan

With over 30 years of nursing experience in Philippines, New Zealand, and Australia, including a decade focused on infectious diseases and infection prevention and control (IPC), Ivy holds a Master of Infectious Diseases Intelligence and advanced credentialing with the Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control. Ivy is the first and only Philippine trained nurse appointed as Clinical Nurse Consultant position in Queensland Department of Health. Ivy has demonstrated leadership in driving statewide responses during COVID-19 pandemic and notable achievement includes managing statewide outbreaks and drafting policies. Ivy is deeply enthusiastic about enhancing patient safety and quality of care through her contributions to Queensland Health's Statewide IPC initiatives. Ivy is also pearl enthusiast and adores her bichon frise dog Ziggy.



Anthony Halog

Originally from Davao City, the Philippines, Dr. Anthony Halog from the University of Queensland studied at leading universities and worked as a Scientist/Professor in the USA, Canada, and Australia. He had been a Balik Scientist in the Philippines. Internationally, he has received fellowships at several leading research institutes. Having spent time as a Visiting Scholar/Fellow in the United Kingdom and Europe recently, he just returned to Australia. Additionally, he invests in socially and environmentally responsible projects and stocks in the Philippines and Australia. Furthermore, he has launched an online consulting business called Donut Ekonomi in Queensland to support the increasing interest in implementing green economy principles across industrial sectors.



Dr Louisa Parkinson

Dr. Louisa Parkinson is a prominent scientist in Plant Pathology, Molecular Biology and Biosecurity. Her PhD conducted pioneering research on avocado diseases, developing rapid molecular tests and identifying new species of fungal pathogens, which received The University of Queensland (UQ) Dean's Award for substantial contributions to the scientific discipline. During her PhD, Dr Parkinson's is an academic researcher for UQ, and a Principal Scientist and Molecular Biologist for State & Federal Government Biosecurity. She has trained the next generation of scientists in both academia and government, her expertise has enhanced national capacity in molecular diagnostics and gene sequence analyses, and she established a framework for world-class molecular diagnostic laboratories for the Australian Government.



Dr Jacqueline Romero

Dr Jacqueline Romero pioneered the use of spatial light modulators (SLMs) for quantum information experiments. Her prestigious fellowships includes a Discovery Early Career Research Fellow by the Australian Research Council, 1 of 4 L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowships in Australia in 2017, 1 of 15 International Rising Talent Awards worldwide from L'Oreal-UNESCO For Women in Science Foundation in 2019, and 1 of 2 Westpac Research Fellowships in Australia in 2019. In 2018, she received the Ruby Payne-Scott medal of the Australian Institute of Physics for outstanding early-career research showing high-dimensional quantum information and developing quantum technologies for communications and computation. She is an advisory board member for the Philippines' Quantum Technology at the Department of Science and Technology.



Alejandro Silagan

A native of Sto. Niño, Villareal, Samar, AI is a Chemical Engineer, a member of the Institute of Engineers Australia; a Chartered Member of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute; and member of the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineering. He is in his last semester for the master's degree in GMP at the University of Technology Sydney. He worked for 15 years at Coca-Cola in Philippines before migrating to Australia in 2013. He is currently the Head of Quality and Operations of a contract manufacturer of registered and listed medicines in Cleveland, Queensland.



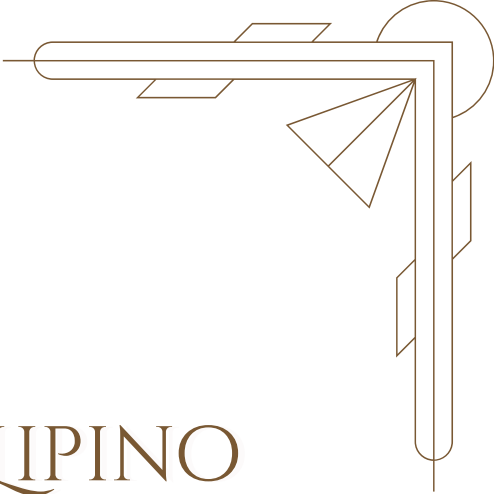
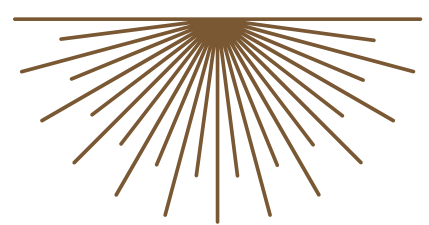
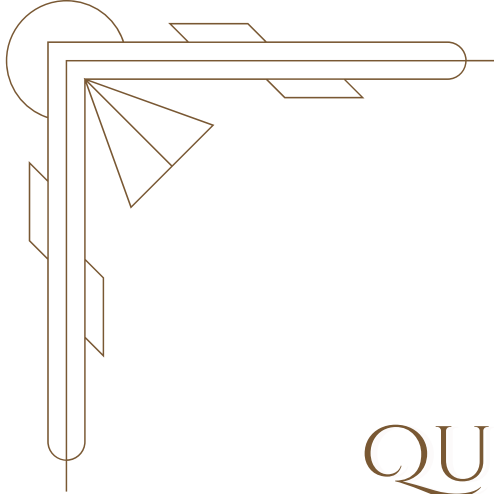
Roderick Villanueva

Roderick 'Ike' Villanueva from Binangonan, Rizal, has a strong passion for arts and science. In music, his composition "His Name is Jesus" won the First Christian Music Competition in Manila in 1984. He won photography awards in the Canon Asia photo competition in 1988. Finished his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from U.P. and worked as a Design Engineer in Meralco. In Australia, he worked as Generation Engineer in the electricity commission. He founded IENERGY Australia in 1997, developed software for the power industry and won the Asia Pacific Information Technology award and the Ausindustry Science award in 1999.



Dr Mayonello Yanila

Mayonelo R. Yanilla, born in Mercedes, Camarines Norte, Philippines, is the eldest of four children. He graduated with a BS in Zoology (Pre-Med) from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. His career journey includes working at Ospital ng Maynila, Philippine Heart Center, Canberra Hospital in Australia, Mater Hospital Brisbane, and Logan Hospital in Logan City.



QUEENSLAND FILIPINO EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024



*Nominees for
Excellence Awards in
Youth Leadership*





Jozef Borja - Erece

Jozef was called to the respective Bars of Queensland (Australia) and England & Wales (United Kingdom) in 2023, and currently practises in Queensland. In 2015, he was admitted to the legal profession as the youngest lawyer in the Southern Hemisphere. After graduating from a Master of Laws specialised in Public International Law with High Distinction at the Australian National University, he completed the prestigious Master's Degree in Corporate Law at University of Cambridge in 2021. He went on to successfully sweep rigorous standardised bar examinations around the world, the New York Uniform Bar Examination, Bar Transfer Test for Admission to the Bar of England and Wales, and the Queensland Bar Examination in less than a year.



Gillian Cruz

Gillian Cruz, a passionate young entrepreneur, leads Manila Grill with a mission to celebrate Filipino cuisine while uplifting local communities. Growing up immersed in the vibrant flavors of the Philippines, Gillian's culinary journey began early, influenced by family recipes and traditions. She is a graduate of Bachelor of Business in Management at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. With Manila Grill, she brings a fresh perspective to traditional Filipino flavours, infusing them with youthful energy and creativity. Gillian's commitment to excellence and social responsibility has garnered admiration, earning her recognition as a young inspiration. Gillian's dedication to her craft and community serves as a beacon of inspiration, empowering fellow youths to pursue their dreams while making a positive impact on society.



Louie Galman

A 17year old dynamic Year 12 student at St. Augustine's College. Having immigrated to Australia at age 2, he emerged as the distinguished 'Australian Young Citizen of the Year 2024' in Ipswich. Louie's impactful contributions include serving on the Ipswich Youth Advisory Council, representing Bundamba in the Queensland Youth Parliament, Australian delegate in the 2022 Children's General Assembly, integral member of Brisbane Catholic Education Student Voice and Program Coordinator and Speaker at the Filipino Australian Foundation Queensland Youth Leadership Training Program. Beyond academics, Louie showcases his musical talent by performing the saxophone at various multicultural festivals, concerts, and events.



Dax Labaja

Dax, originally from the Philippines, moved to Australia in 2007. At Lota State School, he excelled as both the sports captain and chess champion. Following high school, he completed his culinary apprenticeship at age 17 and then pursued his passion in residential real estate sales after obtaining his license. In his spare time, he delves into self-development literature and sales courses to continuously enhance his professional skills. Despite having just one year of experience with his company, his swift progress in the industry has ranked him as the 4th best prospector for the Harcourts Real Estate Network worldwide.



Carl McGill

A freshman at the University of Queensland pursuing a dual degree in Bachelor of Computer Science/Master in Cyber Security. Carl was a consistent academic achiever since Prep to Year 12. He finished primary in Mabel Park State School where he became School Captain in 2017 and the Dux in Gr 6. Carl went to John Paul College Daisy Hill high school where he maintained his academic honours and was a valued Academic Scholar throughout Yr. 7-Yr 12. Carl also excels in Performing Arts and aims to utilise his talents to make a difference.



George William Nield

George attained his Bachelor of Business, Majors in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Bond University. George plays Rugby Union, which is a leading sport for men and women at Bond University, Gold Coast. Its national and international achievements are a significant reason for its status among high-performance sports. George was under 20 Captain at Bond University in 2021-2022. He was the best and fairest under-20 Player. He was also the Captain of the Bond University Colts rugby team. George is currently one of the players of the Philippine Volcanoes, the Philippines National Rugby Union team, who represents the Philippines in international rugby union.



Ryan Tenorio

Ryan Tenorio is a Brisbane born and bred Australian to parents of Filipino ethnic root, heritage and value set. Growing up, he was taught the important of love, kindness and family. And Ryan wore his Filipino heritage proudly. They are the values than served as an anchor in his quest for good leadership. As a teenager, Ryan came out as gay, and faced mental health challenges through his later high school journey. Ryan worked with health professionals with resolve to overcome. He demonstrated resilience, overcame and through adversity sought leadership position in school to promote inclusivity of minority groups. Ryan was made a Music Captain in 2023 at Ambrose Treacy College where he initiated innovative programs within the Music department.

