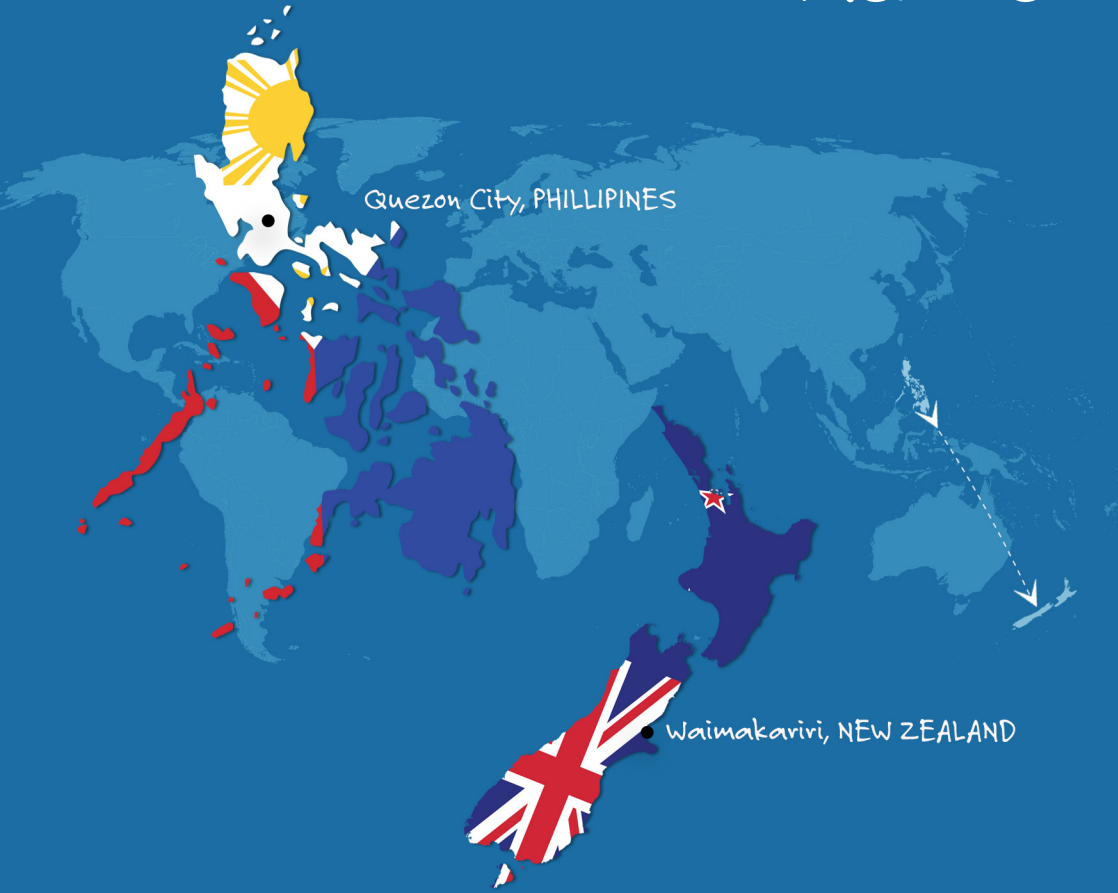


# PACKING for a new life



**Migrants & Newcomers  
Group**

## **Migrant Suitcase Rica and Bob Bolanos**

The Republic of the Philippines to  
New Zealand, year 2006

## The Story

**Our Story:** When we decided to migrate, we looked at the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We decided on New Zealand, as it is a small country with an agricultural base but with a first world vibe.

After acquiring a work to residency visa, I made the trip to New Zealand in February 2006 to work on a dairy farm in Rotherham, a small town north of Christchurch. With a degree in Agribusiness Management, I had always been interested in dairy farming. I was given residency as soon as I signed my employment contract. My family followed in June 2006 a day before a huge snowstorm hit the South Island. They woke up jet lagged to a metre of snow outside our home.

In the next 12 years we moved to several farms around the Canterbury region as I chased better opportunities. In May 2017, I retired from dairy farming moving into the construction industry and bought a house in Pegasus Town where we live today.



## Items in Suitcase

### Bible

Christian Catholics comprise nearly 83% of more than 100 million Filipinos. My father was Catholic and my mother was Christian Protestant so I grew up practicing both religions. The bible reading is central to Christian faith and we have regular bible classes back home.

### Statue of the Blessed Virgin

In the Catholic Church, the veneration of Mary, mother of Jesus, encompasses various Marian devotions that include prayer, pious acts, visual arts, poetry, and music devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We felt we needed an image of the Blessed Virgin Mother to watch over our home and protect us.

### Tamagotchi

Tamagotchi is a handheld digital pet, created in Japan by Akihiro Yokoi of WiZ and Aki Maita of Bandai. Released by Bandai in November 1996 in Japan and May 1997 in the rest of the world, quickly becoming one of the biggest toy fads of the 1990s and early 2000s. As of 2010, over 76 million Tamagotchi's have been sold worldwide. Our kids had three!

### Cook book 1

Before the age of smart phones we relied on cookbooks to make our favourite Filipino meals. One of our all-time favourites is ADOBO, a dish made of pork, chicken or a combination of both cooked with soy sauce and vinegar. This book has almost a hundred recipes in making them.



## **Cook book 2**

We wanted to be able to cook our favourite Filipino dishes. We had to bring a cookbook by Nora Daza who is one of the best Filipino chefs in the Philippines.

## **The Da Vinci Code**

The Davinci Code is a 2003 mystery thriller novel by Dan Brown. The Da Vinci Code follows symbolists Robert Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveu. After a murder in the Louvre Museum in Paris causes them to become involved in a battle between the Priory of Sion and Opus Dei over the possibility of Jesus Christ having been a companion to Mary Magdalene. I like to read on my spare time and because of space constraints, had a hard time choosing just one book to bring.

## **Medicine from our country**

Not knowing what to expect we decided to bring some basic medicines for common ailments.

## **Cold weather clothing**

We anticipated it to be cold so we brought thermal underwear, jerseys and coats.



## Food

We brought some food with us like instant noodles and canned goods. Being an archipelago means we have an abundance of fish. Typically other migrant Filipinos coming from the countryside will want to bring dried fish.

## Photo Album

We love to take pictures and have many photo albums of our children growing up. We cannot take all our photo albums but had to bring a few.

## Country and its history

The Republic of the Philippines is an island country of Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean. It is an archipelago consisting of some 7,107 islands and islets lying about 500 miles (800 km) off the coast of Vietnam. Manila is the capital, but nearby Quezon City is the country's most-populous city. Both are part of the National Capital Region (Metro Manila), located on Luzon, the largest island. The second largest island of the Philippines is Mindanao, in the southeast.

The Philippines is divided into regions. These are administrative divisions that serve primarily to organize the provinces of the country for administrative convenience. Currently, the Philippines is divided into



The flag is a horizontal bicolor of blue and red; with a white equilateral triangle based at the hoist containing three, 5- pointed gold stars at its vertices, and an 8 rayed gold sun at its centre.







The Province of Batangas

17 regions (16 administrative and one autonomous). Southern Tagalog was the largest region in the Philippines in terms of both land area and population. The 2000 Census of Population and Housing showed the region having a total of 11,793,655 people, which comprised 15.42 % of the population of the country.

### **Batangas**

Bob's home town: The Province of Batangas is a province in the Philippines located in the Calabarzon region in Luzon. Its capital is the city of Batangas and is bordered by the provinces of Cavite and Laguna to the north and Quezon to the east. Across the Verde Island Passages to the south is the island of Mindoro and to the west lies the South China Sea.

### **Malabon City**

Rica's hometown: The City of Malabon, is a first class, highly urbanized city in Metro Manila, Philippines. According to the 2015 census, it has a population of 365,525 people. Located just north of Manila, it is primarily a residential and industrial town and is one of the most densely populated cities in the metropolis. It has a total land area of 15.96 square kilometres. The city is considered as the local Venice, due to year-long floods and gradual sinking.



Houses along the Malabon River



***This Suitcase exhibit is prepared by Rica and Bob Bolanos***



Village and Rice Terraces in the Philippines

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