



KABAR

AIA News

Australia Indonesia Association

October – December 2013

Established in 1945

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

In the last Kabar I reported on the wettest June, and now we have had the warmest September. What's the world coming to?

On the political scene we have a new government attempting to establish relations with Indonesia. They got off to a rocky start with all the talk of "stopping the boats", and buying old fishing boats and paying villagers to do in people smugglers. Thankfully they seem to be cutting back on the rhetoric and emphasising "cooperation" to deal with the people smuggling. Meanwhile we have seen more tragic loss of life with several boats sinking off Java. The Coalition government are now pushing for more business ties and have also allocated \$15 million for the Australian Centre for Indonesian Studies to be headquartered at Monash University in Melbourne. Prime Minister Abbott visited Jakarta last week and is now in Bali for the APEC Leaders Meeting. The NSW Government has also sent a business delegation to Indonesia. A few months ago there was a Q & A telecast from Jakarta so you may have recognised some friends in the audience. There were lots of favourable comments on the quality of the panel and their responses.

In Indonesia, everyone is talking about the forthcoming election in 2014, and whether Jakarta Governor "Jokowi" will be a candidate for President.

People are also talking about whether Rhonda and Ketut are kaput!! Who is right for Rhonda? You can [vote for Ketut](#).

Here in Sydney there have been several Indonesian related activities:

- The Indonesian Consulate General hosted the traditional "flag raising" ceremony on Indonesian Independence Day.
- The Governor of Central Kalimantan led a delegation to Sydney to promote business and cultural relationships.
- We also saw a visit by members of Commission 1 (Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Communication) of the Indonesian parliament.

- Pak Jon Soemarjono and his Indonesian Association of NSW organised another successful Indonesian Multicultural Festival at Marrickville, with lots of performances from various cultural groups.
- More recently we had the Festival Indonesia at Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour. The weather was fantastic, as was the range of Indonesian foods available and the entertainment. You may have seen me in the fashion parade wearing my "topi" from Roti in NTT.



The annual Indonesia Update was again held at ANU in Canberra, bringing together a range of experts in various aspects of Indonesian political and economic development. A shorter session involving speakers from the Indonesia Update was held at the Lowy Institute the following Monday.

One of our AIA members, Anthony Liem, who worked closely with Ibu Gary Jusuf, wife of the Indonesian Consul General, to organise the seminar on "Australia's Support for Indonesian Independence 1945 – 49" held at the Indonesian consulate. Anthony has now arranged for a similar seminar to be held in Canberra

In previous Kabars I have spoken of the "Diaspora Indonesia", bringing Indonesian communities together around the world. The "diaspora" includes Indonesian citizens living abroad, former Indonesian citizens, and

people who (like me) have an interest in Indonesia through family connections or through business, work or cultural interests. The Diaspora Congress was held in Jakarta in August with several thousand people in attendance. I understand there were over 80 people from Australia in attendance, and the overall comments have been very positive.

Here at the AIA we have also been busy, thanks to some tremendous efforts from Miriam Tulevski and our Education subcommittee. We received 33 applications for the AIA Commbank Scholarship to send a student to Jogjakarta for a 2 week "immersion" course. The Education subcommittee have reviewed all the applications and have arrived at a short list of 7 applicants who are currently being interviewed. The announcement of the successful applicant will be made shortly. We are grateful for the support we have received from the CBA and look forward to making this an annual event.

We also have the second year of our "Lottie Maramis" Scholarship for a Year 12 student going on to study Indonesian at University. It's all part of our effort to promote Indonesian studies at NSW schools and universities. Applications have closed and we are

currently reviewing these. An announcement will be made shortly.

A couple of weeks ago we had a "History Walk" through the Sydney CBD, led by our Neil Smith, who informed us of various Indonesian related events and where they took place. The rain kept numbers down, but soon cleared and we had an interesting walk.

Some of our committee members recently had dinner with our counterparts from the Australia Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA), sharing information on our various activities. We agreed to hold a joint "Trivia Night", so put your thinking caps on and join us on the night.

Welcome to several new members who have joined over recent months, including Selma Pau, Marianne Wiseman, Endri Sutiyan, and Sally King. Hope to see you at the next function.

Please check out our [website](#) for details of activities and membership. We are also on Facebook.

aiya AUSTRALIA INDONESIA YOUTH ASSOCIATION

MALAM TRIVIA

Saturday, 2 November 2013, 5:30pm - 8:00pm
Underwood Cafe: 120B Underwood St, Paddington

\$20 pp
6-8 persons per team

GREAT PRIZES **INDO FOOD & REFRESHMENTS** **SOFT DRINKS**
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Meet members of Australia Indonesia Association (AIA) & Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP)

*Funds raised on the night will also contribute to the Australia-Indonesia Youth Association.

Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program

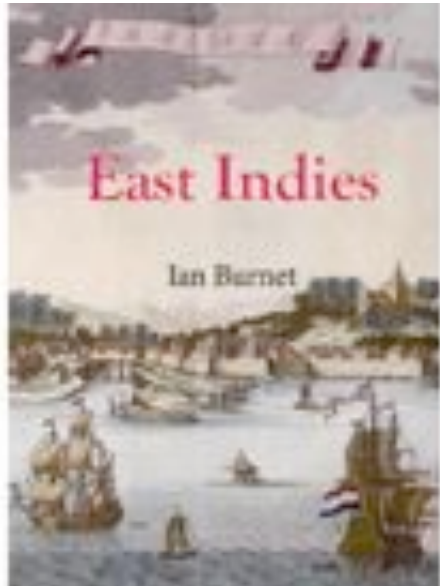
A group of 18 young Indonesian will visit NSW from mid-October until mid-December to experience Australia's culture and way of life. They will spend 3 weeks in homestays, work placements and take part in Indonesian cultural performances as part of the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP).

Sponsored by the Australia-Indonesia Institute and the Department of Foreign Affairs with the support of Ausaid, the program is run in conjunction with the Indonesian Government's Ministry of Youth and Sport. The visiting group of nine women and nine men, mostly university students, have been selected from across Indonesia.

These young Indonesian will undertake work experience placements. They will also give highly entertaining cultural performances to schools, universities and other interested community bodies during their time in Sydney. To express interest in providing a homestay or work placement please contact the AIYEP local coordinator, Sylvia Sidharta at sylvia@tcn.com.au.

East Indies, By Ian Burnett

The following is an extract from the book *East Indies* by Ian Burnett published in September 2013.



On the north coast of Java at the mouth of the Ciliwung River is the ancient port of Sunda Kelapa. A visit to its harbour is like stepping back into another world, a world of sail, when the movement of goods and people around the Eastern Seas was subject to the direction of the trade winds. In a more leisurely time, vessels, goods and people waited for months in Asian ports until the direction of the winds changed and they could sail to their next port of call.

Moored side by side along the quay of Sunda Kelapa harbour are at least forty huge wooden vessels known as Bugis Pinisi. This vessel is a typical two masted schooner of all wood construction, built using traditional building methods on a design that has lasted centuries. Although most of these boats are now fitted with diesel engines and a single mast with derricks attached to lift goods into and out of their holds. This is perhaps the largest fleet of wooden trading boats left in the world and they still carry a significant part of the trade around the islands of the vast Indonesian archipelago.

The quay is a hive of activity, as these vessels load and unload their traditional cargoes such as timber, rice, copra, sago and spices as well as new cargoes such as television sets, motorcycles and mobile phones. All this work is still done by the sweat of human labour, with shirtless and barefooted labourers carrying sacks and boxes down the narrow gangplanks to waiting handcarts and trucks. I watch 'coolies' loading bags of cement onto one of the vessels, each coming down one narrow wooden gangplank with a piece of cloth or shirt draped over his shoulders, making a slight bow as two men load a 50kg bag of cement onto his back and then

returning up the other gang plank to be relieved of his burden.

The headquarters of the first three Governor-Generals of the Dutch East India Company was in Ambon, but this location was remote from the sea-lanes of the Malacca and Sunda Straits that carried trade around the Orient and the Indies. The Company needed a more central location to build and repair their ships, warehouse their spices and to be their military and administrative headquarters. The possibilities were Malacca, Johor, or Banten.

In his *Discours* of 1608, Admiral Cornelis Matelieff de Jong described another possible location for the planned VOC headquarters:

The city of Banten, albeit well situated, is not only very unwholesome, but also has a very young king – fourteen years old – who is impossible to negotiate with; moreover, his council is so divided by factionalism that one cannot accomplish anything ... We need a place where we can call, coming from the Cape of Good Hope, without being subjected to the monsoon ... But then we can expect some inconveniences from the people of Banten, for as soon as they learn that we want to establish our residency in Jacatra, they may well make common cause with the Portuguese and become our and Jacatra's enemies ... If we choose Jacatra, they should give us a suitable location, be it big or small, close to Jacatra's river, where we could build our fortified headquarters to protect ourselves from Portuguese attack.

Ninety years after the capture of Sunda Kelapa by Fatahillah, a relative and vassal of the Sultan of Banten named Prince Jayawikarta became the third ruler of Jayakarta with his palace located on the west bank of the Ciliwung River. The Prince was more than happy to use the Dutch to gain his independence from Banten and in 1618 he signed an agreement with Jan Pieterszoon Coen allowing the Dutch East India Company to build some warehouses on the east bank of the Ciliwung River where it entered the harbour of Sunda Kelapa.

The Sultan of Banten and English East India Company opposed the Dutch settlement and separately besieged the occupants of the fortified Dutch warehouses, but were never allied. In 1619 an English fleet commanded by Sir Thomas Dale arrived off Sunda Kelapa with orders to protect English trade. The English had twice the number of ships as the Dutch and a concerted

English attack could have ended Coen's plans to establish a base for the Dutch East India Company at Batavia. The 'Battle of Jacatra' lasted three hours, the formidable English fleet fired their cannon from a discreet distance, however only a single Dutch sloop was lost and at no time did the English try to board the Dutch ships. The only explanation is that there was no 'United' English East India Company, Dale's fleet represented three different commercial ventures and since each venture was separately financed, none of its commanders were willing to risk their own vessels for the common purpose. Coen was not to know this and not willing to risk the destruction of his fleet, he sailed that night for Ambon to obtain reinforcements, leaving a message to those in the Dutch fortress to hold out as best they could:

In the meantime try to hold the fortress as best you can. If the time should come that you can no longer hold the place you should try to come to some understanding with either Jacatra or the English. It is our opinion that, if such an emergency should arise, you would be better by surrendering to the English.

The men in the fortified Dutch warehouses were able to hold out against both English, and Bantenese demands for surrender until Jan Pieterszoon Coen returned with enough men and materials to build Kasteel Batavia, a square fortress with four bastions lying at the mouth of the Ciliwung River. Once secure in their fort, Coen and

the VOC army turned on the Prince of Jayakarta, razing his court and the adjacent town.

The Dutch East Indies Company set about building a walled city, which they named Batavia after the tribe that had occupied Holland in Roman times. Modelled after a typical port city in the Netherlands, it lay at sea level so that small boats had direct access by river and canal to the city and the warehouses the Dutch East India Company was building.

The warehouses stored the spices they were gathering from across the Indonesian archipelago and the trade goods they brought from Holland and India. Twice yearly these spices would be transferred to the ships of the 'home fleet' of East Indiamen bound for Amsterdam. Batavia grew in the image of a Dutch city, with grand whitewashed buildings built with hipped red tiled roofs and wooden shuttered windows, lining its canals. For the next 323 years Batavia would be the headquarters of the growing mercantile empire of the Dutch East India Company. As described by Jan de Marre in his epic poem *Batavia*:

Whoever wishes to contemplate the Company in the possession of regal and princely power, must seek her in Asia, where she sits enthroned; is mistress of life and death; deposes and raises up kings; makes war and peace; has her own mint; and possesses all the attributes and signs pertaining to independent sovereigns.



INDONESIAN HISTORY TRAIL September 2013

By Neil Smith

On a nice sunny Sunday morning on September 15, a small group of AIA members joined AIA's Indonesian history walk. We met in Wynyard Park in the city. The little park is what left of the military barracks of old Sydney Town.

In the 1920s, 30s and 40s Wynyard Park was a place where city office workers had lunch and listened to public speakers who would talk about politics, workers' rights, religion and issues of the day. On the July 25, September 28 and October 1 1945, there was a crowd of around 3000 gathered to hear speeches on the Indonesia's right to independence and equal wages for Indonesians working in Australia. These were central issues to the Dutch shipping blockade of the day.

Certain people in the Government and City Council were not supportive of this Indonesian solidarity. Arrests were made and much of the media coverage distorted the story, indicating that the gathering was only a bunch of a bunch of radicals up to trouble. So the reasons for the demonstrations were lost to the general public.

We next walked to the AWA tower at the west end of Wynyard Park. The transmission tower on top of the AWA building was likely to have been used for the AIA radio broadcasts about the new Republic and information about Indonesians detained by the Dutch authority in Australia.

We then headed across George Street to the GPO in Martin Place. It was here, in the plush rooms of the Post Master's office, that Louis Mountbatten came on March 26 1946. Before the visit Mountbatten was Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in World War 2 in Asia. Later he was to be the last British viceroy of India. In Sydney he was to confront a delegation of Australian union leaders. Louis was sent to break the hold the unions had on Dutch ships under black ban on the Indonesian issue. He didn't get what he wanted.

After the Post Office we continued up George Street, which was first named Sergeants Major Row then High Street and later Macquarie named it George Street after the King. When we came to Market Street, the history of Sydney's markets was explained. Then onward to Sydney's Town Hall. On October 12 1945 the lower hall was used by the AIA to farewell the Indonesians who were the first to return after Independence. Around 500 came to hear speeches, watch traditional dances' and enjoy the food. The next day members of the AIA farewelled them off on the ship called Esperance Bay.

In the mid-1940s outside the Town Hall Indonesians and union members spoke about the new Republic from on top of fruit boxes. A lad or two would look out for police and when one was spotted the speaker would take off.

In the 1980-90 period, the Perhimpunan Indonesia hosted Indonesian Nights at Town Hall. Each year around 3,000 would come to the show and often members of the AIA would be the front door security and ticket collectors. I myself ran the door 8 times. Next door to Town Hall is St Andrew's Cathedral. In 1945 Bishop Cranswick was the incumbent Bishop and founding member of the AIA. He ran several pro-independence rallies.

Now our little group moved down George Street towards the picture theatre area. Here at 531 George St I believe was the Indonesia Club of 1944-5. Following a description given to me by the late Lottie Maramis who was a member of the club. The club would be the first Indonesian organisation in Australia. It was a place where Australians and Indonesians formed close ties. Members supported Indonesian seaman caught in Sydney because of WW2. It became an important part of the Indonesian Independence movement and the birthplace of the AIA. It was also a place where Australian women and Indonesian men met and many later married, which in many ways represented a direct challenge to the federal government's white Australia policy.

We strolled down Albion Lane with its old brick warehouses towards Dixon Street and stopped at Trades Hall where the union offices were once located. Many of these unions stopped the shipment of arms by the Dutch from going to Indonesia. In the period before Indonesian independence, the Dutch had stockpiled arms for the retake of Indonesia.

Also at the Trades Hall a group of 25 Indonesian were billeted out in 1945. All were suffering from tuberculosis and when they were being treated at the Dutch Lady Juliana Hospital in Turrumurra they were ask whether they supported the Dutch East Indies government or the Republic. All answered: the Republic. As a result they were all discharged from the hospital and left to their own mercy. A group of AIA members collected them and brought them back to Chinatown. With the help of the Chinese Youth League they were transported to another Dutch medical clinic. One did pass away before they arrived in Dixon Street. Only known as Jo Jo, he was the man who handed a secret note to railway union member when he arrived in Sydney. He was one of around 500 brought to Australia as political prisoners by the Dutch authorities. The note told how they were political prisoners and needed help. It was this note that motivated union support. Later Jo Jo was buried in Rockwood cemetery. When the coffin arrived at the cemetery, the mourners were upset that the coffin was made of cheap timber. They opened the box and wrapped the body in a blanket. Jo Jo was lowered into the grave the mourners sang *Indonesia Raya*.

At the end of the walk we went to lunch in Chinatown and discussed this remarkable period in Australia and Indonesia relations.

Forward thinking on water needed

By Harry C Jagers

Since 1901, Australia's most important commodity has been treated by our politicians as of little significance for our survival. The one major infrastructural project since 1788 has been the Snowy River Hydro Scheme. It took 25 years to complete, long after the scheme's main motivator, Labour Prime Minister Ben Chifley, had passed from the scene. If the required Federal Legislation had not been enacted in 1949 before Chifley was voted out of power, the project would probably have taken much longer to materialize with the matter having to be left to the naysayers at the federal government level.

Having live on this earth for 85 years and worked as a technocrat, I count myself very lucky to have grown up with a father who had a mechanical workshop in our rear yard in Randwick where I was effectively his apprentice from the age of 9. Then living in the Sydney suburb of Roseberry, which adjoined an Australian golf course with a pond full of eels and tadpoles, I – sometimes accompanied by a mate – found solace for hours in the in a nature study of these fascinating creatures. Closer to home where the backyard was part of sand-bed stretching from Botany Bay, summer often found me out there busy with a spade. Digging as deep as 6 feet down, I enlarged the hole as soon as I struck fresh water to make it my private mini swimming pool. My mother kept an ever-watchful eye on me.

Living in Randwick also offered a stop up the ladder into salt water research. Not far from home was Lurline Bay at the bottom of which were the remains of a man-made wave-operated turbine for generating electricity on a small scale. There I learned about using sea waves for powering the turbine to generate electric power. By the time I turned 12, I knew quite a lot

about both fresh rainwater and sea water.

It was not until I was 43 years old that I worked for my employer G H & J A Watson as a dredging engineer. Sent to Indonesia, I was able to apply my theoretical and practical grounding in the long term as a designer and promoter of Australian-designed and manufactured canal dredgers that competed against those made in Holland and the USA. Canal dredging was used in Indonesia not only for irrigating new padi (rice) fields but also for de-silting waterways.

Torrential rainfall during the west season falling on the chain of volcanoes running down the centre of the island of Java, swept a massive amount of volcanic alluvium down the mountain side. This run off could silt up canals in 5 years, so de-silting of some of these canals became necessary. I saw tomatoes, carrots, cabbages and other vegetables growing on this rich volcanic soil to possibly twice the size of those in Australia.

When I first visited Indonesia in 1971, I saw many officers in the Indonesian Army who were trained at our ADF Academy in Duntroon. I believe that there is today still a story military link between the two countries. The offer by the Julia Gillard Labor Government to the USA to station a contingent of American troops in Darwin was, in my opinion, tantamount to adding insult to the injury caused by the fiasco over the temporary ban on the export of live cattle to Indonesia.

We blotted our copy book for the reason that our relations with our neighbour to the north were deemed at all levels to be less important than those with our so-called Big Brother.

My 23 years of professional experience included work for Watson but mainly by own business, which involved dredges for sawah irrigation canals on the Indonesian Island of Java. Indonesia, I believe,

is planning for many more canals for various parts of the archipelago.

Since 1968 I have been working on planning for about 50 years for dredging canals to open up as they water our arid hinterlands. Water is the key to putting Australia on the world map trade-wise and tourism-wise. However, without water, mainly rainwater, we simply cannot sustain a population larger than that we have today. After all, the CSIRO a few years ago warned that Australia could not sustain a population larger than 18,500,000. So with no long term plan for Australia's future, our country is 'not alive'.

Watering our hinterlands in four states and the Northern Territory would be under Federal jurisdiction with the scheme falling under the constitutional provision for national defence. This would be the Australian Army in charge of the construction and maintenance of all Australian waterways. We already have a precedent when the legislation for the Snowy River Hydro Scheme was passed in the Federal Parliament in 1949.

It is the key to insure the prosperity of Australia – food-wise, trade-wise, market-wise, you name it – into the foreseeable future. In this respect, we in Australia have a unique strategic potential-advantage over so-called 'tiger economies' to the north in that this project will definitely not suffer from any of the hidden human and material costs of that great potential for igniting regional conflicts among the South East Asian countries in their current scramble to construct dams across the rivers that geographically simply do not respect the legal national boundaries as water finds its way from its sources down to the South China Sea.

FOCUS ON BOOKS

Greetings from Jakarta: Postcards of a Capital 1900-1950 is the most comprehensive visual record of Jakarta ever published covering the first half of the twentieth century which was also the last half century of colonial rule. Four hundred and sixty postcards from the author's own collection are brought together here to reveal a city that has largely vanished and is barely recognizable even to most life-long residents. Three hundred and sixty-two of the postcards have individually researched captions and are linked to period maps which enable the reader to identify the precise location of the each image.

This book is the result of twenty years of collecting and research by Scott Merrillees to try and answer the questions: what did Jakarta look like in the past and how did it evolve into the city it is today? It is a continuation of Scott's first book, *Batavia in Nineteenth Century Photographs*, which focuses on Jakarta during the second half of the nineteenth century. The aim of both books is to transport the reader back to the Jakarta of an earlier age and bring it back to life for the understanding and enjoyment of modern residents and visitors alike before it is lost forever.

Format: Hardcover, 460 full coloured images
Publication Year: 2012
Author: Scott Merrillees
Price: \$60



AIA members receive a 25 per cent discount on books from Equinox Publishing. A full list of titles can be found on <http://www.equinoxpublishing.com>
If you wish to purchase this or any of the other Equinox book/s, please contact Melanie Morrison at melaniemorrison@bigpond.com.

Semur Daging

This is a stewed beef dish with a heavy Dutch influence. This dish comes in many variations, depending on the region in Indonesia where it's cooked. As cooking time can be up to 2 ½ hours, you can pick a cheap cut of beef and it will still have a really nice distinctive flavour. Serve with boiled rice.



Ingredients:

500 gr Stewing Beef
2 medium sized Onions
4 Cloves of Garlic
150 ml cooking oil

300 ml water
2 tablespoons Vinegar or lemon juice
3 tablespoons Kecap Manis
3 large tomatoes
1 large potato
2 hardboiled eggs

Bumbu:

2 Salem leaves (Indonesian bay)
1 teaspoon ground clove
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
½ teaspoon cinnamon
1 star anise
Pepper and salt

Preparation:

Heat the oil in heavy bottom pan and lightly brown the diced beef. Add the diced onions and garlic and wait for them to soften. Mix in the bumbu and add the Kecap, vinegar and enough water so that all the beef is covered. Simmer on a low heat for about 2 ½ hours until meat is very tender. Add the diced potatoes, skinned and chopped tomatoes and halved eggs for the last ½ hour cooking time. Keep an eye on the water level, if it's getting to dry, add a small amount of water.

The fresh tomatoes can be replaced with chopped, tin tomatoes for an equally good result. Before serving remove salem leaves and star anise.

CROSSWORD

Created by Helen Anderson, AIA Victoria

Answers on the following page (no peeking)

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38								39						

Across

1. Go into a place unobtrusively
5. Lopped off or amputated
9. Fire
10. Move or push s.t. aside
11. S.o. evil
12. That
14. Hamlet
15. Force, compel
16. Sound of heavy object falling
- 18&24 Wednesday
21. Which
23. Terrorism
25. Injury, wound
27. Absurd
28. Fame
31. Hashish
33. Come on! (Jkt)
35. Influence
36. Sound of large explosion
37. Turning signal (Auto)
38. In difficulty
39. Adviser

Down

1. After
2. Damaged, broken
3. Blood
4. Time
5. Commotion (*haru----*)
6. Fate
7. For
8. Eliminate, wipe out
13. Terrorism
16. Hindu Goddess of destruction
17. Coarse
19. What
20. That
21. Yell
22. Child (Abbr.)
24. Somewhat damaged
26. Arranger
29. Alias
30. Empty
31. Secret, clandestine
32. Small note book
33. Village
34. Contemptible

Answers

S	E	R	U	D	U	K		B	U	N	T	U	N	G		
E		U		A		A	P	I		A		N		A		
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G	E	R	H	A	N	A		A	D	P	I	S	I	R		

Contributions to Kabar

We welcome all contributions to *Kabar* from both members and non-members. If you have recently been to Indonesia, eaten at an Indonesian restaurant, read a book or attended an Indonesia-related event, please feel free to write an article including photos. Send all material to Melanie at melaniemorrison@bigpond.com.

The AIA Newsletter is produced by the Australia Indonesia Association. Statements made in this publication do not necessarily represent the view of the Association or its members. For editorial, distribution, advertising and membership contact the AIA secretariat. The next deadline is 20 December.

President	Eric de Haas	president@australia-indonesia-association.com
Vice President 1	Neil Smith	vicepresident1@australia-indonesia-association.com
Vice President 2	Lini Kuhn	vicepresident2@australia-indonesia-association.com
Secretary	Neil Smith	secretary@australia-indonesia-association.com
Treasurer	John Luxton	treasurer@australia-indonesia-association.com
Committee Members: Miriam Tulevski, Melanie Morrison, Sisca Hunt, Andre Iswandi, Ken Gaden, Marilyn Campbell, Katie Crocker, Sylvia Sidharta, Graham Ireland.		

GPO Box 802, Sydney NSW Australia 2001, Email: secretary@australia-indonesia-association.com
Tel/ Fax: +61 (02) 80784774 <http://www.australia-indonesia-association.com> © 2010

To foster and promote friendship, understanding and good relations between the peoples of Indonesia and Australia

Bercita-cita membina persahabatan, saling pengertian dan hubungan antar-masyarakat yang erat antara Indonesia dan Australia