



# KABAR

## AIA News

### Australia Indonesia Association

January - March 2012

*Established in 1945*

#### President's Message

Hi Everyone,

The "Jasmine Revolution" continues in the Middle East and Africa. In Europe we continue to see unrest and political negotiations to keep the European Union together and save the Euro, but the UK prefers to go its own way. The markets are still down globally, but there are some signs of recovery in the USA. Here at home, Parliament has passed the "Carbon Tax" but we continue to differ over how to handle the offshore detention of refugees. The Aussie dollar continues to trade around parity with the US\$ and interest rates have come down a little, which is always good news!

Our relations with Indonesia continue to bring up mainly bad news. The plight of the young Newcastle boy caught with marijuana in Bali was finally resolved with him receiving a short sentence and then allowed to return home. The numbers of refugees arriving by boat from Indonesia has increased recently during the period before the monsoons set in. The recent capsizing of a boat and the loss of around 200 refugees off the coast of Java has again focussed attention on this matter. Meanwhile, several Indonesian youths who worked on some of the refugee boats remain in Australian jails. The Indonesian community is rallying around to help these unfortunate youths. In Sumbawa last week there were protest riots at an Australian mining venture there, and several people were killed by the police trying to break up the riot.

The cattle industry remains an issue with the Indonesian government imposing strict quotas on live cattle

imports in order to promote self sufficiency-of the local cattle industry.

On the brighter side, the Indonesian economy continues to do well, and they recently hosted the ASEAN Summit in Bali, attended by world leaders including President Obama and our own Prime Minister Julia Gillard. The Indonesia Australia Business Council also held their conference at the same time in Bali.



*Javanese Group Performance*



*VIPS at the Spring Fair*

Several Indonesian functions have been held in recent months, including our Spring Fair held at Wisma Indonesia on Saturday 15 October. Several VIPs attended, and we had an excellent line-up of continuous

entertainment for the day, together with several stalls selling our favourite Indonesian dishes. Proceeds from the Spring Fair went to the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) and to the *Yayasan Anak Papua Sehat*. The NTA provides small scale self help development projects throughout eastern Indonesia, whilst the *Yayasan* provides medical assistance to communities in Papua. The Spring Fair is an opportunity for us to reach out to the Australian public and show them a sample of Indonesian culture and food. This year we were much luckier with the weather. Laurie Ferguson who has attended and officiated at several of our Spring Fairs has recently joined the AIA and we offer him a warm welcome.



*Franki Raden and the Orchestra*

The Indonesian National Orchestra performed a series of concerts in Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. This orchestra brought together many of the unique Indonesian musical instruments and performers from across the archipelago. A bit different to your classical orchestras but nevertheless very interesting and entertaining.

The Blanco Museum from Bali put on an exhibition of their paintings at the

Sofitel Wentworth Hotel in Sydney. This was sponsored by the Indonesian Tourism authorities.

Several functions were held by the various Indonesian groups in Sydney, including the Hawaiian Night held by IAWA (Indonesian Australian Women's Association), and the networking function organised by the Indonesian Business Council together with the Australia Indonesia Business Council.

We finished off the year with our dinner at the 1945 Restaurant, with about 35 people enjoying the "rijstafel" meal, and welcoming some of our new members, including Susan Head and Robbie McGregor. Another new member unable to attend was Jeff and Relyta Neilson.



*Christmas Cheer*

Our next AIA function will be a casual barbecue on Sunday 5 February 2012. Our more lavish "Jakarta by Night" evening will be held in March.

Hope to see you at some of the functions over the coming months. We can always use more help with our activities, so if you would like to participate, please contact me.

Could I also remind you that membership renewals can be made for 2012. Renewal forms were sent out recently, but you can also just transfer the fee (Family \$30, Single \$25) to the AIA at BSB: 012-327 Account: 2418-30232 including your name and the text "renew".

Please check out our website [www.australia-indonesia-association.com](http://www.australia-indonesia-association.com) for details of activities and membership. We are also on Facebook.

*Eric de Haas*

## Marines in Darwin Trashing the Lombok treaty

Duncan Graham, *The Jakarta Post*, Malang, East Java | Wed, 11/23/2011

In 2006 the two relevant foreign ministers, Alexander Downer and Hassan Wirajuda, signed the Australia-Indonesia Agreement on the Framework for Security Cooperation. It took two years of negotiations to develop the document, which replaced the 1995 formal defense pact. What's now known as the Lombok Treaty committed both nations to cooperation and consultation in defense and law enforcement, combating international crime and terrorism, and sharing intelligence. The two countries also agreed they would not "in any manner support or participate in activities by any person or entity which constitutes a threat to the stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of the other Party". Then, suddenly last week Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and US President Barack Obama announced that up to 2,500 American Marines would be stationed in Darwin, the largest port in Australia closest to Indonesia. This newspaper described the news as a "bombshell". Indonesia's Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa had apparently been alerted ahead of the announcement. Did this comply with the Lombok Treaty clause on "consultation"? Only if you embrace Australian newspeak where the word has become synonymous with informing others after a cast-iron decision has been made. That wasn't the only gulf in interpretation. It seems Australia's decision to allow heavily armed foreign forces to dig in on the border doesn't fall into the category of threatening the other's "stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity". Indonesia appears to differ. Natalegawa, who was educated in the UK and Australia and is no slouch in understanding the subtleties of English, was reported as saying it could create "a vicious circle of tension and mistrust". In plain speak, this is instability. The treaty was designed to do the opposite. Establishing a US base in northern Australia is meant to send a message to India and China, the two growing super-powers. But between those faraway places and the

Great South Land lies a lovely archipelago, the world's third-largest democracy. This strategic zone will now have American warships, warplanes, submarines and helicopter gunships on a nearby beach — and Indonesians weren't asked what they thought. Perception depends on position. Living a few hundred kilometers northwest of Darwin, I have a different view of plans to turn the Northern Territory into an armed camp than when I lived in Perth.

If I was still in my home state (and earlier state of ignorance about Southeast Asia), I might have thought the idea of beefy American soldiers between little me and the land-hungry masses of Asia to be comforting. Most Australians know about their nation's empty interior and over-populated neighbors. We've grown up fearing the menacing arrows of descending communism believing that only the gallant forces of the Free World could stop the evil Red Tide, just as they halted the Japanese in the 1940s. But then we matured and it seemed that the gravity theory driving Australian foreign policy had been buried. Wrong. Last week it was exhumed and revived. It's been embarrassing trying to explain to Indonesians why a sovereign nation would allow foreign troops to be based on its soil, unless, of course, the host is weak, insecure and subservient to a colonial master. That's the obvious logic, and no end of rabbiting on about independent alliances and historical ties will shake local opinion. My friends are just a mite confused — why the US military and not the UK when Australia has the Union Jack on its flag and the Queen's head on its currency? It would be easier trying to explain cricket. The Indonesian media response has been robust with commentators asking how the deal sits alongside the regular pleas for Australians to develop friendly grassroots relationships with the people next door. There's been much talk of a new Pearl Harbor. How would Australians react if Indonesia suddenly announced a similar number of Chinese troops being stationed in Bali? Would Canberra accept the "normal bilateral agreement" line? If our Javanese neighbors in suburban Malang invite Ambonese hardmen (the preman usually used for "protection")

to settle in and flex their muscles, my family would be rapidly reappraising our community relationships. Does Indonesia have territorial ambitions on Australia? It's about as impossible to erase this deeply-embedded but absurd fear in the Australian psyche, as it is to convince the electorate that the US will not necessarily dash into the fray should the continent be attacked. The Indonesian armed forces would be formidable defenders of their land, but don't appear to have the equipment, funds, or enthusiasm to invade 7.69 million square kilometers. There's no discernable political appetite for such an insane adventure. Terrorists occasionally add Australia in their visions of a Caliphate but these crackpots are on the fringe

of the fringe. The last test of US resolve in this region came during the 1999 East Timor Referendum crisis when Australia appealed for American involvement. Then president Bill Clinton maneuvered a few warships but kept them over the horizon. The tension with Indonesia was an Australian problem, and no grunts' boots were among the international peacekeepers that trod the turf of what is now Timor Leste. The realpolitik is that future US policy will be based on that nation's national interests at the time and having a US Marine base in Australia will make not a whit of difference. If Washington decrees these troops will be deployed elsewhere or sent back to their northern hemisphere home,

Canberra's agreements with the US will have no more value than the Lombok Treaty. In the meantime, we Australians have to remain in this region for the rest of our existence. Better Gillard puts her government's energies into encouraging us to understand and appreciate our neighbors than being matey with the Marines. If we really must have a US presence, then invite the Peace Corps.

*The writer is an East Java-based journalist. We thank him for permission to reprint this article.*

### **Australian laws contributing to deaths at sea**

**By Jeffrey Nielson**

**(ABC, *The Drum*, November 9 2011)**

The rapid passing of the Detering People Smuggling Bill 2011 through Parliament on Tuesday November 1, 2011 coincided with the tragic sinking of a boat carrying asylum seekers off the south coast of Java.

Unsurprisingly, blame for the tragedy has been directed squarely at unscrupulous, criminalised people-smuggling networks. This has provided political grist to the mill for both sides of Parliament wanting to project a hardline stance on border protection. The bill was rushed through Parliament to amend the Migration Act to thwart a test case on people-smuggling laws to be heard in the Victorian Court of Appeal on Wednesday. The case has now been delayed to give time for the new legislation to come into force. In short, the Victorian appeal argued that if asylum seekers have a lawful right to seek asylum in Australia (as suggested by the High Court ruling in August), then those assisting passage cannot be prosecuted as "people smugglers", which is based on the illegality of entry.

However, this highly simplified framing of the people-smuggling problem is logically flawed on at least two accounts.

First, it fails to acknowledge the reality of who is actually affected by the legislation. One might reasonably assume it to be crime bosses sitting back in safe affluence profiteering from human misery. This is the stereotype presented in popular discourse – Kevin Rudd's "absolute scum of the Earth". However, information revealed during the recent Senate Estimates hearings in October presents a starkly different portrait.

Under questioning, the Deputy Commissioner for

Operations in the Australian Federal Police, Andrew Colvin, revealed that of the 493 individuals arrested in Australia on people-smuggling charges during 2009, 2010 and 2011, 483 were simply working as crew on boats leaving from Indonesian ports. Only 10 individuals are organisers!

So, those affected by the rushed amendments are in fact deckhands and cooks, many recruited from impoverished islands in Indonesia's eastern backwaters. In what is slowly looming as a national human rights disgrace, many of these crew members are juveniles being imprisoned in Australian adult jails: their ages determined by a questionable wrist X-ray examination widely discredited by medical authorities, including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Far from the vile scum of the political imagination, they are boys such as Ose Lani, Ako Lani and John Ndollu, all minors from Rote Island near Timor, who were offered jobs to work on boats leaving from their local harbour. Oblivious to the demonisation of "people smugglers" in Australia, they accepted and languished for months in Australian adult prisons before finally being released. Many more villagers just like them are still being detained in Australian jails, their fates further sealed by this week's bill.

In a move strongly opposed by the Law Council of Australia, the legislation will be applied retrospectively to 1999 and includes harsh five-year mandatory sentencing for those assisting passage for groups of asylum seekers. In what can only be described as sloppy law-making, Australian people-smuggling laws do not differentiate between those individuals crewing boats for paltry wages and organisers reaping profits.

The second flaw in logic is the dubious claim that harsh people-smuggling laws are required on compassionate grounds to avoid disasters such as that which occurred off Pangandaran last week. These disasters are occurring because asylum seekers are travelling on crowded,

unseaworthy boats with inexperienced crew. Yet, unseaworthy boats are deployed because any vessels reaching Australian waters are routinely destroyed by our authorities. This creates clear financial disincentives to deploy productive (and valuable) boats and encourages overloading. Similarly, severe mandatory sentencing of crew automatically selects for inexperienced, uninformed, desperate or naive individuals, who are likely to be ill-prepared to safely navigate the passage to Christmas Island or Ashmore Reef. Those insisting on harsh people-smuggling penalties under Australian law, thereby shaping the disincentives for appropriate maritime safety, are equally culpable for deaths at sea.

The flawed logic underlying the response to people smuggling reflects an inadequate conceptualisation of people smuggling itself. Foremost is the obfuscation of the terms "people smuggling" and "human trafficking". In its 2010 Global Review on The Smuggling Of Migrants, the United Nations Organisation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is quite clear that the latter involves profit obtained through exploitation at destination, whereas people smuggling does not. This is not the case with asylum seekers arriving in Australia and the term "human trafficking" should never be used or implied.

The dominant international conceptualisation of people smuggling, as presented in the UNODC review, is a system of institutionalised networks with complex profit and loss accounts that facilitates movement of people

### Visiting the Indonesians in Prison By Anthony Liem

John Luxton, Michael Kramer and myself Elizabeth Biok from Legal Aid NSW on December 30 at her office. We had an interesting chat about the Indonesians who in Silverwater and Parklea Prisons. There are apparently about 90 men in prison in NSW, all charged with ferrying these boats carrying asylum seekers. We have made arrangements to visit some of them in the next few weeks and we have been asked to refrain from providing any information in case this will prejudice their trial.

Elizabeth mentioned a number of problems and issues:

- Establishing their identity, this can only be done by doing background search in Indonesia, and this is very costly and time consuming.
- On release and deportation to Bali, what is their fate? Do they go home, are they being recruited to crew the next boatload, are they indebted to the smuggling syndicate?
- Being kept in prison with hardened criminals, how are they treated and will they come under the influence of drug dealers and be recruited in a more lucrative trade?
- How literate are they? Apparently some of the young men have only received a basic education.

There should be pressure on the Australian Government

between origin and destination countries. Smugglers are merchants while the smuggled migrants are clients paying for a service. Australian laws, then, contribute to the network of incentives and disincentives that shape behaviour and decision making amongst actors and agents across South-East Asia.

While exploitation undoubtedly occurs within these networks, it is also not uncommon for asylum seekers themselves to refer to the person who "helped" them as an "agent". Indeed, family networks are sometimes implicated as in the well-known cases of Hadi Ahmadi and Ali Al Jenabi, suggesting altruistic motives play a part for at least some (but certainly not all) of the actors involved. The draconian sentencing and demonisation of impoverished Indonesian juveniles as "people smugglers" is a moral outrage. The same policy simultaneously contributes to unnecessary deaths at sea through sending clear safety disincentives to actors operating within the region.

*Jeffrey Neilson is a lecturer in geography at the University of Sydney, with specific expertise in economic development and poverty alleviation in eastern Indonesia, where many of the jailed Indonesians come from. Thank you to Jeff for permission to reprint this article.*

from the Indonesian Government / Human Rights Commission to:

- Keep these young men outside adult prisons and place them in detention centres similar to those of recently arrived asylum seekers until their status can be established.
- Be taught a trade and skills including English, so when they are returned they can make a proper living.
- To work outside prison so they can pay for necessities including their accommodation.

I realise it all is a legal nightmare and the best solution is to stop people smuggling or provide some other solution to a complex problem. We know about the boats that are reported to be lost or wrecked, what about the ones that are not reported.

The AIA can only monitor the situation and during the planned visits check on any of the prisoners needs such as contact with relatives back home.

The Human Rights Commission has launched an inquiry into the treatment of suspected children on people smuggling charges. More information about this inquiry can be accessed on:

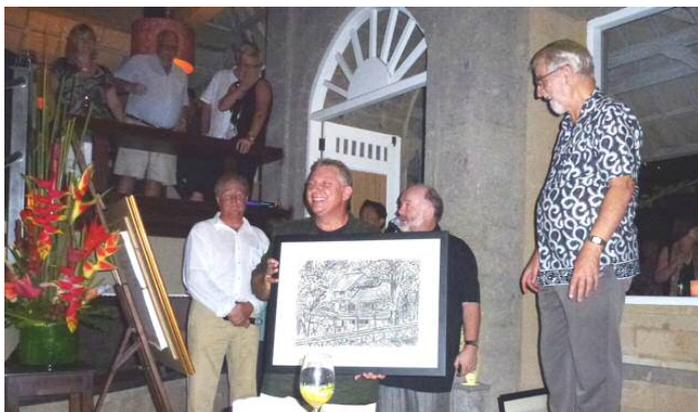
[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/news/2011/116\\_11.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/news/2011/116_11.html).

**The story of John van der Sterren and  
Colorful Horizons — building bridges between people  
in Bali**  
By Paulette Kay

This is a companion piece to the *Jakarta Post* article, 'Cataracts give way to colorful horizons' by Trisha Sertori, which follows. Trisha interviewed John van der Sterren in relation to his exhibition of visual art from 15 October 2011 to 15 January 2012 in support of the John Fawcett Foundation. In the article, John speaks frankly of his life's journey but fails to mention any of his artistic achievements.

So why am I writing this? With my husband, Slater, I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the exhibition on 14 October 2011, where organiser Bruce Wallace MC'd proceedings, the Chairman of the John Fawcett Foundation, John Foord, opened *Colorful Horizons* in the presence of John Fawcett and a hundred guests, and Claude Chouinard ran the fundraising auction. By the end of the opening weekend, half the works had been sold. While credit for this success is shared, particular acknowledgement was made by all three speakers of the part played by the exhibiting artist, John van der Sterren. And the part John played may be explained by the gaps in the interview that he gave to the *Jakarta Post*. Now, because of what John didn't say, I would like to include this snapshot of the man as artist and also give you a little background to the exhibition.

*John van der Sterren, artist:* Blessed with an inspired and inspiring talent, John van der Sterren is widely held to be the leading landscape and portrait painter in Indonesia following the Fauvist style. Fauvism has been described as combining features of post-Impressionism—use of vivid colour, paint thickly applied, distinctive brush strokes and subjects from life—with some from Pointilism, specifically its dots of colour. However, John's work rises above this prosaic description of method: his landscape paintings convey the spirit of place, not merely its detail, while his use of colour imbues the work with the intensity of a visual emotional experience; and his portraits breathe. As John says in the *Jakarta Post* article, their form, 'the essence', comes from his drawings—and the form is distinctly his own.



*The opening*

Published acknowledgement of John's artistic ability began with the first biography by Didier Hamel, *John van der Sterren: A tropical journey* (2001a), and continued with books of his charcoal and ink sketches: *Maroc* (2001b), *Old Jakarta* (2002a), *Amanjiwo & Borobudur* (2002b) and *Old Surabaya* (2003), all with Hexart Publishing. In 2008, Bruce Wallace's love of art and friendship with John saw him editing, among others' art books, John's second biography, *Colorful Horizons* (Hexart). Bruce also wrote its cover notes.

John now lives in Yogyakarta, where he has his studio, but he has worked and exhibited in Indonesia, Singapore, Europe and Morocco. He has also worked in Australia but has not yet been available to exhibit here. Currently, John van der Sterren oils and drawings are keenly sought by collectors in four continents and, if relinquished, have performed well in the secondary market. John's works are held by private collectors and corporate entities, as well as by institutions such as the Asia Pacific Museum in Warsaw and the Asia and Pacific Museum in Nusa Dua, Bali.

Artistic success has not, however, stopped John from being generous of heart: he supports various causes and has always donated more than the usual 20 per cent when involved in fund-raising exhibitions—as he has on this occasion for the John Fawcett Foundation to which he also donated three works for the opening-night auction. Now here's the 'six degrees of separation' between John van der Sterren and the AIA:

John gave freely of his time to help me with clarification of points raised by beloved AIA patron, Charlotte Maramis, on the fate of non-ethnic Indonesians during the 1940s and 1950s for her *Echoes Three* which I was editing in 2009. The *Jakarta Post* article explains why I turned to John.

*The genesis of the exhibition:* Some of AIA's members may remember Bruce Wallace from his days as Austrade's Senior Trade Commissioner in Indonesia. That Bruce should coordinate the exhibition for John van der Sterren in Bali for the John Fawcett Foundation had long been a dream for both him and his artist friend. Missing from their dream was the perfect venue. Enter Claude Chouinard: manager of the newly opened restaurant, bridges Bali in Ubud.

Members of the AIA will recall that Claude has been a valued supporter of Bali Hati School with his vouchers from Ubud's One World Retreats @ Kumara Sakti and Bali Botanica Spa. In 2010 Claude redesigned the 23-year-old Bridge Cafe and reopened it nine months later as 'bridges Bali'. Since its opening in December 2010, bridges Bali has confirmed its fine-dining status. With its seven levels overlooking the river, the restaurant is, according to its webpage, *the place in Ubud to bring guests and/or self-indulge*. When Bruce approached Claude about staging an exhibition at bridges Bali—on a date less than two months in the future—Claude immediately committed: he already valued the John Fawcett Foundation and, on being introduced to John and his work, became an instant admirer of both. Claude became the third member of the creative trinity needed to

make the exhibition a reality.

With the opening of the exhibition on 14 October, bridges Bali also became *the* place to support the John Fawcett Foundation and to enjoy the works of a respected artist and a good man—as well as, of course, the place to succumb to the delights of fine dining. For the next months, John's work may be viewed on <http://www.bridgesbali.com/event.html> (Framed charcoal drawings are priced at about 2 million rupiah each, the small oils are 7 million and the larger are from 29 million.) I'm happy to say that Slater and I are now the proud owners of a beautiful John van der Sterren charcoal. I'm sure by now you've realised I'm a fan, and I hope that, by the time you have finished reading this and the following article, you too will enjoy an understanding of the man and his work.



*Campuhan Bridge*

**Cataracts give way to colorful horizons** Trisha Sertori, Thursday, 20 October 2011 (Jakarta Post)

Of East Java's population of 75 million, at least half a million are cataract blind. A 10-minute operation could lift the shadows from their eyes that hamper every facet of daily life. The Bali-based foundation Yayasan Manusia, or the John Fawcett Foundation, has been for more than a decade working to restore sight to many of these people and other cataract victims across the archipelago, according to 73-year-old Indonesian-born artist John van der Sterren, who is donating proceeds from his Ubud exhibition to the foundation. He said the foundation offers free medical treatment to all.

'A large percentage of funding for the John Fawcett Foundation comes out of Australia; this is a foundation that really needs support and that support also needs to come from local people,' said Van der Sterren ahead of the exhibit opening last Friday. The 'Colorful Horizons' paintings and charcoals that make up the exhibition tell of Van der Sterren's deep affection for his birth country; oil paintings of Balinese temples, the immaculate Borobudur temple in central Java where the artist now lives and other slices of daily life that make up this diverse nation.

Born in West Java in 1938, Van der Sterren was third-generation Dutch Indonesian, and despite emigrating to

New Zealand in 1951 says 'once you have lived in Indonesia, it never leaves your heart. That is why so many people come back. This country has a magical attraction, a magic pull. As a child, leaving Indonesia was a painful experience.' That pain was felt despite Van der Sterren's incarceration in Japanese concentration camps and the turmoil rippling across Indonesia as it sliced its ties with the colonizing Dutch, declaring freedom in August 1945. 'I am a third generation Indonesian born in Sukabumi. My grandparents had been here since the early 19th century,' says Van der Sterren who grew up in West Java's great green tea-growing country, the warmth of that green resonant today in his paintings.

'One grandparent was in the Royal Dutch Army, another was a civil engineer who built the swimming pool in Bandung, Pemandian Cihampelas, that was recently demolished to make way for an apartment building,' says Van der Sterren, saddened at the loss of a Bandung icon. As a four-year-old during the early months of the Japanese occupation of Indonesia, Van der Sterren remembers being classified as Eurasian because he was born in the country. 'I was four when my family was caught by the Japanese. They had a funny rule that people born in Holland were Dutch and we born here were Eurasian, but there were so many blonde, blue-eyed Indonesians then they had to change that ruling and said all people of Dutch extraction had to go into concentration camps.

'The first camp at Cihapit where I was for about a year with my Mum was not quite so bad. It was a part of the city walled off with bamboo and it was really like a whole economy to itself in a confined space. The next camp was in Ambarawa called Kamp Banyu Biru, the blue lake camp. That was a terrible camp in an old condemned Dutch barracks. I don't really want to talk about that period – it's time that's gone by,' says Van der Sterren, clearly marked by the rapid and reverberating changes that were taking place in his young life.

It was with relief that the family, who apart from his grandfather all survived World War II, were sent to New Zealand to recuperate at the close of one of the greatest wars waged across the globe. 'After two and half years in the camps we were sent to New Zealand to recuperate. The people there were wonderful, but my father, a tea plantation manager, was told we had to move back to Indonesia, to Jakarta. But the Japanese had destroyed the estate so my father worked with an airline,' says Van der Sterren of his family's rootless wanderings in the aftermath of war and the birth of Indonesia as an independent nation.

A short return to Holland didn't sit well. 'We were not from there – it was not our home. It was a difficult time. We had made so many friends in New Zealand so we decided to move there,' says Van der Sterren who later took up sculpture, but found this medium of expression was not a fit. 'I began to study music, but that was also not for me and then I met the famous New Zealand painter Cedric Savage – that was in 1957. He started me in oils – I had always sketched, stage-managed productions; I had always been in the arts. In the old days I would paint

outdoors, now I do charcoals on site and these inspire me when I paint.

For me drawing is the essence,' says Van der Sterren who since the late 1980s traveled the globe until the mid-90s when he came full circle and again found his home in Indonesia. And it is in his exhibition at Bridges Bali that we see through his works these journeys into memory and the artist's boundless joy in answering Indonesia's magic attraction, where the green is warmer. When asked the

difference between painting panoramas of his much loved adopted home, New Zealand and those of his birth country, Indonesia, he explains it is the colors within the green. 'New Zealand are black greens, here in Indonesia they are warmer.'

### Indonesian at Pennant Hills Public School

By Lynne Lagaida

I have been teaching Bahasa Indonesia at Pennant Hills for the past twelve years. The parents have funded this position since its commencement and continue to provide this service.

The entire school population studies Indonesian, with each class having a 30-minute lesson, once a week.

In general, I try to mirror the work being taught by the classroom teacher so that I am able to utilize their artwork in the classroom, provide more meaning for the students, and reinforce skills already learnt.

My aim is to make language learning fun and accessible for all students regardless of ability. In the younger classes, in particular, this includes lots of games and songs.

To raise the profile of Indonesian in the school, we celebrate Independence Day each year with all students wearing red and white. The canteen also sells some Indonesian foods on the day. Each class takes part in an Independence Day activity, such as a spinning top competition, flag making, or designing a *kuda lumping*, to name a few.

In addition to this, each alternate year I organise a Multicultural Day for the school body where we have performances from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Balinese dancers. We have also been fortunate enough to have had the *Pelangi* group organised by the Indonesian Consulate visit our school. The students at Pennant Hills particularly enjoy taking part in the *Kompetisi Siswa* each year, and we greatly appreciate the support of the Australia Indonesia Association in making this initiative possible.

### Clarrie Campbell

By Neil Smith

Clearance Hart Campbell was born in South Australia in 1894 to Alfred and Elizabeth (nee Hart). Clarrie was a veteran of the Gallipoli campaign. When he returned home he became active in politics and ran Ben Chifley's first electoral campaign in Bathurst in 1928.

His interest in politics continued and, as a member of the ALP executive council, Clarrie ran against Jack Lang for the seat of Auburn in 1940 and lost by a slim margin. He was close with leaders of the communist party in Sydney, headquartered at Marx House near Central station.

From his days in Gallipoli Clarrie came in close contact with an Indian military regiment from the Punjab. He kept in contact with Indian nationals and some of who later came to Sydney as Indian seaman. In 1930 he became a founding member of the Australia Indian Association and later became the first treasurer of the

Indian Seaman's Union. Both associations were openly anti-colonial.

As a qualified industrial chemist, Clarrie also ran a bitumen company called United Lubricants in Alexandria. While in Brisbane on business he met a factory worker called Molly Warner. He asked her to work in his Alexandria factory. Like Clarrie, Molly was a left-wing activist. In Sydney, Molly befriended a number of Indonesian nationalists. Both were founding members of the Australia Indonesia Association in 1945. Clarrie had previously also held the position of treasurer of the Indonesian Seaman's Union which, like the Indian Seaman's Union, worked to end colonial control in Asia.

Around 700 Indian seaman were brought to Australia in the mid 1940s. When they found out they were hired to break the ban on shipping to the Dutch controlled Indonesia, almost all refused in solidarity with Indonesia's freedom struggle.

When Clarrie became involved in the Indonesia Seaman Union and the AIA he established close ties with Committee for Indonesian Independence. It was at this time he met a young Indonesian naval officer, Anton Maramis. Anton and his wife Charlotte Reid, now our patron, were also founding members of the AIA.

Through his involvement in CEKIM and after a personal recommendation from CEKIM representative, Mohammad Bondon, Indonesian Prime Minister Sultan Syahrir supported the appointment of Clarrie Campbell as Trade Commission in December 1945. Incidentally, Bondon married Molly Warner who he became acquainted with now through Clarrie.

There were concerns that Clarrie was not the right person to be trade commission. The Dutch, aware of Clarrie's political stance, let Australian officials know that he would prejudice the situation. The Australian external affairs representative Bertram Charles Ballard told Prime Minister Sjahrir that

Clarrie was not a suitable trade commissioner. Clarrie was further discredited in 1947 when he announced that Australian unions would support a worldwide ban on Dutch shipping although he had no authority to say this. In another blunder Clarrie announced that two trading companies - one in Australia the other in Indonesia would be financed by the Bank of Java. This pre-empted the official announcement. Clarrie resigned 30 May 1947 as trade commissioner.

Soon Clarrie found himself back in Sydney. Refusing to do nothing, Clarrie was reacquainted with Fred Wong. He met Fred in the early days of Indonesia's independence struggles. Fred was President of the Chinese Youth League that assisted

with the funding and accommodation of Indonesians during the war.

It was Fred, along with other Chinese communists, who helped fund Clarrie's new business venture – the Asian Airlines company which he re-established in 1947. Asian Airlines served the Australia-Indonesia – Malaysia freight route. In mid June 1948 Fred and Albert (Bluey) Taylor the company engineer flew one of the Catalina seaplanes from Sydney to Lake Boga in Victoria. In a mysterious accident Fred died when a dinghy overturned on the lake. While the initial report stated that Fred died by drowning, it was later discovered that Bluey Taylor (who managed to swim away) was still part of military intelligence and Australian intelligence files described Wong as the most

active communist among Australia's Chinese community..

After the death of Fred, Asian Airlines encountered cash flow problems. The Company Operations Manager also stated to the media that the airline intended to supply Indonesian nationals with arms and equipment for the independence struggle. The Australian Government grounded the airline.

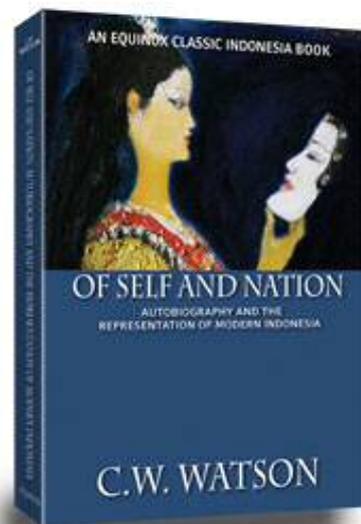
Clarrie then decided to leave Australia for Singapore. By 1949 Clarrie was a director of Malayan Bitumen Products. With contracts to build roads for the Malaysians government, he became a wealthy man. Clarrie passed away in Singapore in 1972.

## FOCUS ON BOOKS

### Of Self and Nation by CW Watson

Recent scholarly work on nationalism has revealed the importance of the nation imagined as a community. The subjects of these works, however, have been largely political speeches, polemical essays, and radical journalism. Missing has been the one literary genre where the individual's commitment to the imagining of the nation is most explicitly addressed: autobiography. In looking critically at eight autobiographical works, all concerned in one way or another with the question of what it means to be an Indonesian in the twentieth century, C.W. Watson demonstrates the value of reading autobiographies as accounts of nation-building. Opening with a critique of a turn-of-the-century collection of letters by an aristocratic Javanese now celebrated as the founder of the women's movement in Indonesia, Watson goes on to consider the autobiography of another Javanese who was co-opted into the Dutch colonial service and whose reflections on his relationships with senior Dutch officials lay bare the dynamics of the process of twentieth-century colonialism. Other autobiographies by writers and religious figures from Sumatra and Java who actively participated in the struggle of the nationalist movement in the 1930s and 1940s are also carefully scrutinized. The final chapter considers how autobiographies written by a younger generation of Indonesians in the late 1980s reconsider Indonesian nationalism in the light of a commitment to a modernistMuslim perspective on the nation.

*Of Self and Nation* offers an original and illuminating approach to understanding how a modern nation came into existence and how its people have constructed a sense of national identity.

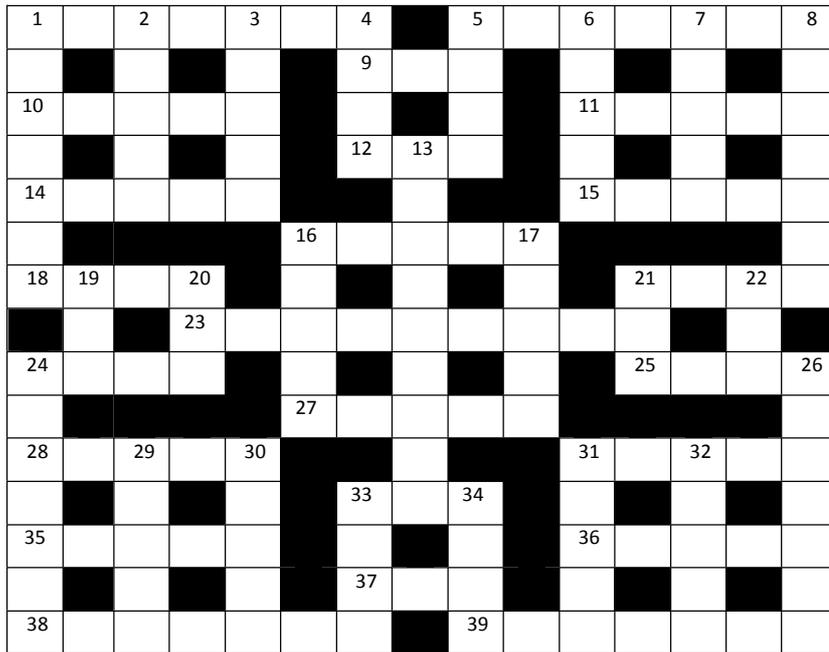


AIA members receive a 25 per cent discount on books from Equinox Publishing. A full list of titles can be found on <http://www.equinoxpublishing.com>. If you wish to purchase this or any of the other Equinox book/s, please contact Melanie Morrison at [melaniemorrison@bigpond.com](mailto:melaniemorrison@bigpond.com).

**CROSSWORD**

Created by Helen Anderson, AIA Victoria

Answers on the following page (no peeking)



**Across**

- 1. Popular
- 5. Possible
- 9. There is, there are
- 10. Regret
- 11. Night
- 12. I, me, my
- 14. Write
- 15. Naughty
- 16. Insult
- 18. Phase
- 21. Random
- 23. Mistake
- 24. Transitory, fleeting
- 25. Saying
- 27. Item (in a list)
- 28. Valid, genuine
- 31. Strong will, resolve
- 33. This
- 35. Know by heart, memorize
- 36. Marriage
- 37. That
- 38. Article
- 39. Skilled, competent

**Down**

- 1. Positive
- 2. Paragraph
- 3. Pass a test, graduate
- 4 & 5. Feel embarrassed
- 6. However
- 7. Later
- 8. Position o.s.
- 13. Difficulty
- 16. Fate
- 17. End
- 19. There is, there are
- 20. One, single
- 21. Whatchumacallit
- 22. What
- 24. Eloquence
- 26. Whereas, besides
- 29. Know by heart, memorize
- 30. Refined
- 31. Question, inquire
- 32. Large-scale (firm or operation)
- 33. Permission
- 34. Follow, go along

## Answers

P	O	P	U	L	E	R		M	U	N	G	K	I	N		
O		A		U		A	D	A		A		E		E		
S	E	S	A	L		S		L		M	A	L	A	M		
I		A		U		A	K	U		U		A		P		
T	U	L	I	S			E			N	A	K	A	L		
I						N	I	S	T	A				O		
F	A	S	E			A		U		K		A	C	A	K	
	D		K	E	S	A	L	A	H	A	N		P			
F	A	N	A			I		I		I		U	C	A	P	
A						B	U	T	I	R					A	
S	A	H	I	H				A				T	E	K	A	D
I		A		A			I	N	I			A		A		A
H	A	F	A	L			Z		K			N	I	K	A	H
A		A		U			I	T	U			Y		A		A
T	U	L	I	S	A	N			T	R	A	M	P	I	L	

**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](mailto:melaniemorrison@bigpond.com).

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**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**