



KABAR

AIA News Australia Indonesia Association

June – August 2010

Established in 1945

President's Message

Hi Everyone,
Welcome to our new members, some from as far afield as Bomaderry, and to those who have renewed their memberships.

The long awaited visit of Barack Obama to Indonesia and Australia was postponed in March due to the political situation surrounding the introduction of new health legislation in the USA. We now look forward to the visit taking place in June. The visit to Australia by the Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, however went ahead, although it was a whirlwind visit to Canberra and Sydney. The visit was also the largest visit by Indonesian Ministers with 11 Ministers, Governors, parliamentarians and a delegation of senior business leaders.

In Canberra there was a parliamentary lunch with parliamentarians and leaders of the Indonesian community before President SBY addressed the Australian Parliament. This is a rare honour bestowed on only a few world leaders. In Sydney that evening there was a reception with the Indonesian community. Whilst President SBY did not sing on this particular occasion, some of his Ministers showed their musical talents to the delight of the audience. President SBY in his address to the community mentioned that the "Sister State" arrangements between NSW and DKI-Jakarta would be developed further, so hopefully there will be a role for the AIA.

The following morning the Australia Indonesia Business Council arranged a well attended Breakfast Briefing addressed by the Indonesian and Australian Trade Ministers. This was followed by a Business Briefing by President SBY, before he was whisked away to the airport.

The AIA was founded In July 1945, a month before the famous declaration of independence by Soekarno and Hatta on 17 August 1945. As we often say to people, the AIA is older than Indonesia! To celebrate our 65th Anniversary, we will be holding a cocktail evening on Saturday 3 July 2010, and launching our publication on the history of the AIA, in particular the

founding in 1945. This publication will form the basis of a much more comprehensive history of the AIA which will require considerable researching and gathering of material. If you have any photos or memorabilia of the AIA and its activities over the years, please let Neil Smith (neilsmith418@hotmail.com) know and he will arrange to scan or copy it. If you have any material you wish to donate to the AIA, please send it to Neil.

The Australian Socceroos played against Indonesia in an Asian Cup qualifier in Brisbane in March. Australia won the match but it was not an inspiring event.

In March we conducted what is becoming an annual event, the AIA – AIBC "Jakarta By Night" dinner which attracted over 50 people, and we were pleased to have the Consul General Pak Sudaryomo and his wife Tri as our guests. Simon Butt spoke about his experiences in Indonesia and we showed some old Dutch films of *tempo doeloe*, courtesy of one of our members.



Eric de Haas, Simon Butt, Adrian Vickers
and Pak Sudaryomo

March was also the time of our AGM, a low key affair followed by refreshments. Anthony Liem joined our Committee and we discussed our plans for 2010.

June - August 2010

We have been meeting with the Maritime Union of Australia, whose members were active in the AIA during its formative years. The MUA is planning a "Historical Walk" as part of the Barangaroo Development, to include a series of commemorative plaques of their activities over the years. One of these plaques will relate to the support given by the union to Indonesian independence. We are working with the MUA to support this commemorative plaque. The MUA is also organising a function in September, to which they have invited their counterparts from Indonesia, and we are assisting them with the Indonesian cuisine and cultural entertainment for the evening.

Indonesian (and other Asian) studies have dropped off in our schools over the years and we are concerned that this will impact on the level of understanding between Indonesians and Australians. We are committed to supporting such Indonesian studies through our "Seymour Shaw Fund" and are looking at a program for AIA members to visit schools and talk with students about the Indonesian culture

THE FOUNDING OF THE AUSTRALIA INDONESIA ASSOCIATION (AIA)

By Anthony Liem

The AIA is an organisation whose aim is to 'foster and promote friendship, understanding and good relations between the people of Australia and Indonesia'. AIA activities include an annual Spring Fair, functions in support of charities in Indonesia and other social events.

The AIA was founded 65 years ago when a group of like-minded Indonesians and Australians invited people from organisations such as universities, trade unions and church groups to form a committee. One of the founders Molly Warner approached the Dutch Consul to be the patron, but he declined. Professor A. P. Elkin, Sydney University's first Professor of Anthropology agreed to be the first President. The AIA was inaugurated on the July 3, 1945 at the Oddfellows Hall, 147 Castlereagh St. Our present patron Charlotte Maramis and her mother Elsie Reid were among the founding members. About six weeks after its founding, Indonesia declared its Independence on August 17, 1945. The AIA through their support of the Atlantic Charter ie 'the principle of people who desired freedom of determination of their own future in a democratic way,' welcomed the new Republic.

But the birth of the AIA had its teething problems, because Australia was considered to be an ally of the Netherlands East Indies (NEI) government in fighting their common enemy Japan. With the end of the war and the independence declaration, the NEI planned to return to re establish their colony of the East

and language. We are also seeking Government assistance to enable us to carry out such a program.

Festival Indonesia was planned to be held on 29 May, but was called off a few days beforehand due to the wet weather forecasts. We understand that it is rescheduled for 7 August. The AIA have a stall booked to talk with people about AIA activities.

Michael Kramer has decided to step down from the Committee this year, but remains a member and supporter of the AIA. On behalf of the Committee and our members I would like to thank Mike for his active involvement over many years, and look forward to him re-continuing his involvement in the future.

Please join us on 3 July to celebrate our 65th Anniversary! See you there.

Please check out our website www.australia-indonesia-association.com for details of activities and membership. We are also on Facebook.

Indies, now known as Indonesia. AIA members had to choose a side to support. This resulted in a number of its office bearers choosing to resign, a major setback to the stability of the fledgling Association.

A number of AIA committee members became actively involved in the Independence movement including a ban on NEI ships carrying military and arms to Indonesia. This ban on ships in Sydney Harbour became a subject of the well known 1946 film 'Indonesia Calling' directed by Joris Ivens, NEI's own Film Commissioner.

After the end of the WW2 and under the then White Australia Policy, the Australian government was committed to return, by ship, all Indonesians to 'territory not occupied by the NEI authorities'. This posed a problem because all major ports were held by the NEI.

On October 12, 1945 the AIA organised an information meeting in the basement of Sydney Town Hall prior to the departure of the Esperance Bay, the first repatriation ship. Some Indonesians were concerned about their back pay, which they had been promised they would receive when they reached Indonesia. The AIA was given the power of attorney and agreed to negotiate with the NEI and to ensure that the money actually reached the recipients.

All 4000 or so Indonesians were sent back to Indonesia in three ship loads, the last one being the Manoora in 1946. The AIA received a letter from a group of TB patients, who were cared for by some of its members, including Charlotte and her mother

Elsie after they were found lying on the side of a street in Turrumurra on a cold winter morning. They had been summarily evicted from the Princess Juliana Hospital. These patients on the Esperance Bay expressed their gratitude for the assistance of the AIA and 'hoped that this organisation would continue to foster and strengthen friendship between Australia and Indonesia'. The AIA survived, despite the waning interest after the repatriation of the Indonesians and today it aims to continue to strengthen the relationship between a modern and independent neighbour, Indonesia and multicultural Australia.

NOTE: **THE FIRST COUNCIL OF THE AIA** –
 PRESIDENT – PROFESSOR AE ELKIN
 VICE PRESIDENT - MR C GODHARD/ DR D
 CAPELL/ BISHOP CRANSWICK/ MR CH
 CAMPBELL/ MR G ANDERSON
 HON TREASURER: - MR G ANDERSON

Love in the face of prejudice

HAMISH MCDONALD

April 24, 2010 (Sydney Morning Herald, reprinted with the kind permission of Hamish McDonald)

A different kind of war story emerged recently at an unpretentious gathering at the NSW Writers Centre in Rozelle. It happened in Australia and shows a lot of courage and steadfastness, but it's not about fighting men and combat, like most of our Anzac Day celebrations.

That Sunday afternoon in Rozelle, it was very much a do-it-yourself affair. The author, Charlotte Maramis, at the age of 82 was launching her third self-published book. The guests brought along their own snacks and soft drink. Lots of elderly relatives of her subjects were brought up to the podium, to the affectionate amusement of all.



Hamish McDonald and Tante Lotte

HON SECRETARY - MS M WARNER
 COUNCILLORS - MR RA ARCHINAL/ MRS CE
 NORTH/ MRS L GAP/ MR G PEEL/
 MR A BUCKLEY/ MRS EC BYRNES/ MR A PEEL/
 MISS G WILLIAMS/ MR AW HAMILTON/MRS E
 REID/ **MISS L REID**/ MISS N SKEELS

REFERENCES:

CHARLOTTE MARAMIS – 'ECHOES, BOOK ONE,
 AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA
 JAN LINGARD – REFUGEES AND REBELS,
 INDONESIAN EXILES IN WARTIME AUSTRALIA
 JOAN HARJONO & CHARLES WARNER - IN LOVE
 WITH A NATION, MOLLIE BONDAN AND
 INDONESIA
 RUPERT LOCKWOOD – BLACK ARMADA

Charlotte's writing - the three books come under the general title *Echoes* - is mostly about her life involving one of the least understood aspects of the period around the end of World War II, the slow realisation by Australia that its blinkered self-isolation from the peoples of Asia was being forced to an end. A Bronte girl, Lotte Reid (as she then was) came accidentally into the forefront of this change soon after she turned 16 in 1943. A nervous aunt and uncle had left their seaside home for fear of Japanese attack and were staying in a city hotel. There they met an Indonesian seaman who had come to Australia with Dutch shipping, withdrawn from the Netherlands East Indies ahead of the Japanese invasion.

Anton Maramis, a well-educated petty officer from North Sulawesi, was brought to a family gathering. Lotte was taken with him and began keeping him company at the chaperoned dances held by the stranded Indonesians and their Australian supporters.

As she approached her 18th birthday, Charlotte and Anton agreed to marry. But the exiled Dutch Indies government, operating from Australia from 1942, was anxious to whisk its subjects back under its control after their dangerous exposure to new thinking about colonialism that was taking hold in the politics of Australia. Its officials were pressuring Canberra to deport people like Maramis as soon as possible. Although our propaganda would have you believe the Australian government virtually liberated the Indonesians, the fact is the Dutch had a great deal of help in their attempt to hang on to the country. They were allowed to move their political prisoners from the Boven Digul camp in Papua and keep them locked up here until this became too embarrassing for our authorities.

While our wharfies and others in communist-run trade unions were disrupting Dutch shipments into Indonesia after the war ended, Arthur Calwell, the immigration minister, was only too susceptible to concerns about "coloured" men from Asia getting too settled here and forming attachments with Australian girls.

Anton lived underground for months, popping up to speak at nationalist gatherings, but was eventually rounded up and shipped back to the Indies where he was quickly inducted into the Indonesian rebel government and assigned to work on its covert trade through Singapore to earn funds for arms.

The Reids, a prosperous middle-class family who sent their children to private schools, seem to have been remarkably open-minded for the times. Their worries about the union were more about Charlotte's age than Anton's colour. The deportation provided a test. When Anton returned to Sydney on a trade mission more than a year later, the marriage went ahead.

Not all families were happy about such marriages. "At times it was evident that some members of the girl's family were not in attendance, and it was obvious that this was a way of showing disapproval," Charlotte wrote.

Four months after they married, police turned up at the Reids' home in Bronte and took Anton off to Long Bay jail, pending deportation two days later. He'd been travelling on papers issued by the revolutionary government and our authorities had acted on a tip-off by Dutch intelligence that he was an "illegal" entrant.

Charlotte's love was put to many tests - active attempts by immigration officials to disrupt her efforts to rejoin Anton, sniffy social comments about "mixed" marriages, and lurid stories in the press about Australian brides facing a "native" life with their barefoot, sarong clad in-laws, living in huts and washing their clothes in filthy canals.

Have you ever heard of Kenneth Frederick Wong or Fred Wong? By Helen Liem (22/5/10)

Possibly not, if you did not attend the very successful book launch in his name on 11th April, a few weeks ago, in the Writers' Centre at Rozelle.

Over 120 people gathered in one of the heritage sandstone buildings, set in beautiful lawn gardens, to celebrate the publication of a book about Fred Wong, entitled *Echoes Book Three: Australia -China - Indonesia* by Charlotte Clayton Maramis. Charlotte, a retired journalist, the wife of an Indonesian, the late Anton Maramis, has written about her husband in

Her second book shows quite a different outcome. Anton moved in the elite circles of the new Indonesian republic and the couple lived in the relatively comfortable housing left by the Dutch, enjoying a cosmopolitan social life. Charlotte became a journalist on the *Indonesian Observer*, part of the Merdeka publishing group of the Diah family, who were close to President Sukarno.

Charlotte had a ringside seat to Sukarno's turbulent political and personal life, including tearful sessions with his senior wives as he moved on to younger models. After 12 years, her mother's long illness brought Charlotte back to Sydney in 1962, where Anton joined her.

The dire predictions had been put to the test indeed. Anton had known all along that Charlotte was unlikely to have children because of a serious bout of mumps during puberty, but stayed with her until his death in 1998. The marriage thus lasted nearly 52 years. Some marriages broke up quickly. But other newlyweds stayed in them and contributed greatly to the new Indonesian republic, like the former Molly Warner, who married the Boven Digul ex-prisoner Mohammad Bondan and returned to Jakarta with him, becoming Sukarno's main English translator.

Charlotte's third book takes the story on a sympathetic sidetrack, to a character she met about the same time as her courtship by Anton: a dashing Australian-Chinese man named Fred Wong who led a double life as a Leichhardt greengrocer and a supporter of Chinese and Indonesian resistance. Her story cries out for her books to be consolidated into a more widely available form, and - school principals take note - Charlotte Maramis is still active of mind and body, and here as a role model of love and constancy in the face of prejudice.

Echoes Book One: Australia and Indonesia (2006) and *Echoes Book Two: My Years in Indonesia*.

Fred Wong (1906 – 1948) was first and foremost, a passionate humanitarian. Despite the constraints and dangers of speaking out during the years of the White Australia Policy, he dared to be a dedicated and determined political activist fighting for the rights of his beloved China to be free of Japanese occupation, the rights of downtrodden Asian seamen stranded in Sydney during World War Two and lastly, the rights of Indonesians to Independence from the 350 year colonial rule of the Dutch.

The book traces his birth in Cobar, New South Wales, his life as a husband, father and businessman in Sydney, and his active political career, which was

cut short abruptly and mysteriously by his death at Lake Boga in Victoria. Although the “accidental drowning” 62 years ago, was highly suspicious, the matter was not thoroughly investigated by the government of the day, and his family still awaits closure. It is strongly suspected that his activities to help the establishment of Indonesian Independence made him a target.



Ibu Tri Sudaryomo and Tante Lotte

Speakers at the Book Launch, included the wife of the Indonesian Consul-General, Ibu Tri Sudaryomo; Fred’s devoted assistant, Arthur Chang Gar Locke,

now nearly 90 years old, but still mentally sharp; Helen Liem-Wong, Fred’s daughter, married to Indonesian born architect, Anthony Liem, Lee Howard Smith, the nephew of the author, who saw Fred as “ one of the few ordinary men who did extraordinary things”; Dr. Drew Cottle Senior Lecturer in Political History at the University of Western Sydney, whose research culminated in the publication of a paper on Fred Wong in July, 2000, and who saw Fred as a man who “kept the country (China) at heart and the world in mind...an internationalist”; and, of course, the author, Charlotte Maramis.

Also in attendance were the Consul of the People’s Republic of China, Sydney Morning Herald Columnist, Hamish Macdonald, Dr. Peter Wong MP, and the family of Fred Wong

The book *Echoes Book Three: Australia: China : Indonesia* is available at Berklelouw Books, 70 Norton Street, Leichhardt (Ph:9560-3200), Gleebooks. 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe (Ph: 9660 2333)

Focus on Books:

THE KING, THE WITCH AND THE PRIEST

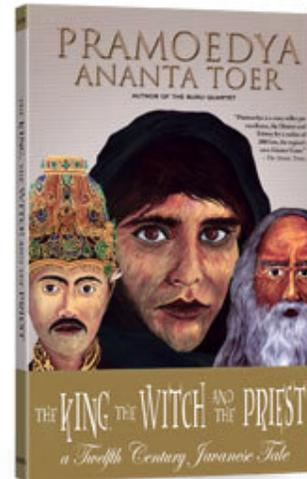
"Centuries ago, there was, in the eastern part of the island of Java, a kingdom by the name of Daha..." So begins *The King, the Witch and the Priest*, a fable with contemporary allure that is based on the story of Calon Arang, a Javanese legend dating from the twelfth century.

As tradition tells it, Calon Arang was a powerful witch from the village of Girah who had a beautiful daughter named Ratna Manggali who could find no husband. No man would have her for fear of her mother.

Calon Arang became so angered by her daughter’s plight that she spread pestilence throughout the kingdom. To deal with the problem, King Erlangga ordered his most respected

priest, Empu Baradah, to get rid of Calon Arang. This proved to be no easy task as Calon Arang owned a book containing all the secrets of sorcery. This ancient tale, as retold by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, exhibits a remarkable relevance to contemporary life with timeless lessons such as the triumph of good over evil and the ever-possible eternal salvation of one’s soul.

AIA members receive a 25 percent 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.



ISBN: 979-95898-3-5
 Author: Pramoedya Ananta Toer
 Pages: 128
 Format: Softcover
 Publication Year: 2002

Restaurant Review **Delima Restaurant**

At last year's AIA Christmas party held at Delima restaurant I was fortunate enough to win a \$50 voucher to dine there once again. The impressive Christmas party spread encouraged me to return to the restaurant with several 'foody' friends and a couple of kids. The restaurant is tucked away in a typical Chinatown mall although you can access up a flight of stairs on Dixon Street. It's more upmarket than the usual Indonesian eatery in Sydney, with low lighting and funky little table areas separated by hanging beads.

Luckily we booked because when we turned up on a Friday night the restaurant was packed. Busier than expected, it seemed, as those who just turned up were turned away by apologetic Delima staff.

Still savouring the taste of the spicy *terong* and the tasty *kangkung* from the Christmas party, I ordered these dishes again. My friends ordered the *ikan bakar* with *bumbu* Bali, chicken and beef sate, and the *rendang* and with the kids in tow we ordered a *mie goreng*.

The *kangkung* and spicy eggplant was, as I remembered, absolutely delicious. The *rendang* was full of flavour as was the sate. The *ikan bakar bumbu Bali* exceeded all expectation – a big piece of fish grilled with a traditional coconut and chilli Balinese source. I'll definitely be trying that one again. The *mie goreng* was disappointing – with a direct from the bottle *kecap manis* flavour, although the kids seemed to like it. I've since heard the green chilli chicken is divine, definitely something to keep in mind if planning a visit to Delima.

The staff were courteous and friendly ... although a little run off their feet. The slight chaos, however, did not take away from a very enjoyable meal. Highly recommended.

Number One Dixon Shopping Centre
Level 5, Shop 69, 1 Dixon Street
(02) 9267 7045.

By *Melanie Morrison*

Recipe: **Kering Tempe**

350 grams tempe
8 shallots
2 cloves garlic
vegetable oil
½ tsp chilli powder
2 tsp paprika
1 tsp gula jawa (palm sugar)
salt

Cut the tempe into thin pieces. Crush the shallots and the garlic into a smooth paste. Deep-fry the tempe in oil until it is golden brown and crisp; drain the slices, and keep them warm. Put 2 tablespoons of oil in a wok, fry the shallots and garlic paste for 1 minute and add chilli powder, paprika, sugar and salt and stir well until the slices are well coated with the *bumbu*. The slices can be stored in airtight jars.

Selamat makan.

FOR THE DIARY:

THURSDAY, JUNE 3 at 6pm: John Hughes' film 'INDONESIA CALLING: JORIS IVENS IN AUSTRALIA' will be shown at the SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL
TICKETS: SFF.ORG.AU <<http://SFF.ORG.AU>>
BOX OFFICE PH 02 9690 5390 / 9318 0999
Ticket price: Adult \$17, concession \$15, group 10+ \$13

SATURDAY, 3 JULY: AUSTRALIA INDONESIA ASSOCIATION 65TH ANNIVERSARY, Wisma Indonesia. Dress: cocktail. For more information contact Eric de Haas – president@australia-indonesia-association.com.

August 7: Festival Indonesian, Darling Harbour

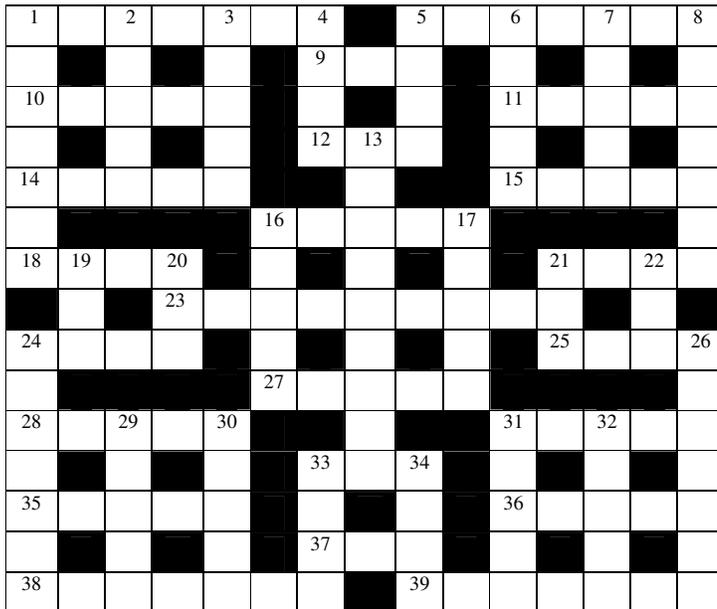
August 17 – INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Contributions to Kabar

We are interested in any 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.

CROSSWORD

Created by Helen Anderson, AIA Victoria
 Answers on the following page (no peeking)



Across

- 1. Just now (*Coll.*)
- 5. Nurse
- 9. There is, there are
- 10. Tomorrow
- 11. Puberty
- 12. What
- 14. Effective (*-----guna*)
- 15. Phase
- 16. Cashier
- 18. Name
- 21. Above
- 23. Local government clinic
- 24. Pulse (*Med.*)
- 25. Medicine
- 27. Weak (of body)
- 28. False accusation
- 31. Body
- 33. Contents
- 35. Beautiful
- 36. Drama
- 37. Rib
- 38. Impotent
- 39. God

Down

- 1. Bandage, dressing
- 2. Prescription
- 3. Sick
- 4. Name
- 5. Medical group (*---- medis*)
- 6. Troublesome
- 7. Epidemic
- 8. Therapist
- 13. Local government clinic
- 16. Tired, exhausted
- 17. Hospital (*-----sakit*)
- 19. There is, there are
- 20. Fire
- 21. Rest, take a break (*Coll.*)
- 22. What
- 24. Nutrition
- 26. Army
- 29. Waterproof (*-----air*)
- 30. Healthy
- 31. Surgical operation
- 32. Diarrhoea
- 33. Licence
- 34. Change colour, turn pale

ANSWERS

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

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 25 August 2010.

Patron

Lottie Maramis

President

Eric de Haas

Vice President 1

Neil Smith

Vice President 2

Lini Kuhn

Secretary & Public Officer

John Luxton

Treasurer

Bryan Loughlan

Committee Members:

Sisca Hunt, Anthony Liem, Melanie Morrison, Miriam Tulevski; Adrian Vickers; Jamie Vueti

president@australia-indonesia-association.comvicepresident1@australia-indonesia-association.comvicepresident2@australia-indonesia-association.comsecretary@australia-indonesia-association.comtreasurer@australia-indonesia-association.com

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