



KABAR

AIA News

Australia Indonesia Association

April - June 2012

Established in 1945

President's Message

Hi Everyone,
Where did summer go? The hottest day was only 32 degrees and that was on the second last day of February. Huge amounts of rain, filled all our dams to overflowing, and for the first time in many years there are no areas in drought in NSW. Several towns had to be sandbagged and people evacuated, but I don't recall any fatalities due to the floods. Our desalination plant, still in its testing period, continued to churn out more water, although they did reduce the volume somewhat.

We had the political manoeuvring leading to the leadership ballot within the ALP. Julia Gillard had a clear win over Kevin Rudd who is now relegated to the back benches. In an unusual move, our own Bob Carr was appointed to the Senate and then sworn in as the new Foreign Minister. The good news is that he has stated, once again, that Australia should be focussing more on South East Asia, and Indonesia in particular.

The Lowy Institute released its Indonesia 2012 poll which found that "Indonesian attitudes towards Australia have markedly improved and are increasingly positive. Australia is the fourth most warmly regarded country. While the Australia-Indonesia government relationship has traditionally focused on threats and development aid, Indonesians increasingly want a much broader government agenda. Very large majorities want a focus on education (95%), health (92%) and trade (87%)." This augurs well for relationships between Indonesia and Australia.

This month has seen International Harmony Day, and there have been, and continue to be, several cultural events in which the Indonesian community is participating. On 21st March there was a large function at Sydney Town Hall in which many communities participated. The Indonesia Welfare Association put on an Indonesian dance and cultural show, choreographed by Sisca Hunt, an AIA committee member. The NSW Premier is hosting a dinner on 28 March, and on 14 April, the IWA together with the Sydney Council are holding an Indonesia Cultural Exchange Day at Alexandria. A week later, on 21 April, the Indonesia Community Council is presenting its Harmony day function at Hurstville. The wife of the Indonesian Consul General hosted an art exhibition at their residence, and an Indonesian film "Raid" was launched in Sydney theatres.

Some of our AIA members have over recent months visited several Indonesian seamen who are in prison, having been crew members on the boats transporting refugees to Australia. We understand that there are around 60 Indonesians currently in prison in NSW. This issue was discussed at our recent Jakarta By Night dinner.

The AIA has also been busy with social events. The barbecue in early February was a great success, bringing together some people who hadn't seen each other for many years. We were fortunate with the weather, picking the one day that the sun really shone!

In March we had our Jakarta By Night, again well attended, with old movies and slides for those nostalgic for the past and "tempo doeloe". Welcome to our new members, Elizabeth Biok and Lydia Santoso with husband Nicholas.

Last week we had our Annual General Meeting and election of the Committee. I am honoured to have been re-elected as President with the following Committee members, most of whom have been re-elected, but with some newcomers as well. Lottie Maramis continues as our Patron.

Vice President & Secretary Neil Smith
Vice President Lini Kuhn
Treasurer John Luxton
Kabar Editor Melanie Morrison
Committee Marilyn Campbell, Ken Geden, Sisca Hunt, Graham Ireland, Andre Iswandi, Anthony Liem, Anthony McMullen, Miriam Tulevski

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 for details of activities and membership. We are also on Facebook.

Eric de Haas

Wake-up call for a stale relationship

By Fergus Hanson, *The Australian*
March 20, 2012

AUSTRALIA'S relationship with Indonesia must rank as one of our greatest foreign policy failures. Our politicians treat a country with a population 10 times the size of Australia's as though it is a miscreant Pacific atoll. Our business people ignore it to the point we do 50 per cent more trade with minuscule New Zealand.

And even though Australians can't get enough of Bali, poll after poll shows general attitudes towards Indonesians are stuck in a time warp. However, a new Lowy Institute survey conducted across Indonesia raises serious questions about whether these long-held stereotypes need to be reassessed.

It is incredible that Australian politicians are able to get away with treating a country as critical to Australia's future prosperity as Indonesia with such reckless abandon. Illustrative examples include the government's panicked response to the documentary about cruelty in abattoirs, ending all shipments of live cattle to Indonesia (never mind similar cruelty was later unearthed in an Australian slaughterhouse). Or the opposition announcement it would turn back all asylum-seeker boats to Indonesia. In neither case were Indonesia or Australian diplomats in Jakarta consulted.

This is patronising, short-term thinking. For a start, Indonesia is no joke. After years of rapid economic growth, its economy is already larger than Australia's in purchasing power terms. With a population of more than 230 million people and gross domestic product growth averaging about 6 per cent in the past few years, that gap is destined only to widen.

Despite a remarkably smooth democratic transition and a pro-

Australian President in Indonesia, Australian political leaders have failed spectacularly to capitalise and set the relationship on a more propitious course. As Indonesia increasingly dwarfs Australia in economic size and global heft, and perhaps elects a leader less favourably disposed towards us, we may regret this.

Unfortunately, business and people-to-people ties are possibly worse. Indonesia can be a tough place to do business, but this doesn't stop trade with other equally challenging places such as China, which subject Australian executives to secret trials. This is not to suggest Australian businesses should be forced to trade with Indonesia, just that it is odd we are so underdone in a country right on our doorstep set to become one of the world's largest economies.

At a personal level, we all adore its beaches but cannot seem to look beyond the mental caricature of Indonesians as Islamic extremists or cruel cow slaughterers.

For their part, Indonesians seem to be moving on from the past and challenging many assumptions about them in the process. For a start, they like Australia and Australians.

Of 21 countries included in the Lowy Institute poll conducted across Indonesia, Australia was the fourth most warmly regarded, moving from a lukewarm 51 recorded in the 2006 poll to a warm 62. Of nine foreign countries, overall Australia was the second most trusted to act responsibly in the world. A large majority (91 per cent) of Indonesians also view Australia as an advanced economy, a good place to study (89 per cent) and as having attractive values (69 per cent). Indonesians are also economically progressive and outward-looking. A large majority (79 per cent) is optimistic about Indonesia's global economic performance in the next five years, an increasing proportion (67 per cent) say globalisation is good and a remarkable proportion favour sovereign foreign investment in Indonesian companies.

Like Australians, many Indonesians are wary about China's rise, with 56 per cent saying it is likely China will be a military threat to Indonesia in the next 20 years. When this same question was asked of Australians last year, 44 per cent said this was likely.

Relations with the US also appear on the mend. Seventy-two per cent of Indonesians trust the US somewhat or a great deal to act responsibly in the world, up 40 points since 2006. And the US is even more warmly regarded than Australia. A big majority (88 per cent) of Indonesians also reject, always, the suicide bombing attacks that have occurred in Indonesia.

It is not all good news. Presented with a range of hypothetical policy options, 15 per cent expressed support for a boycott of Australian products and 12 per cent are in favour of the Indonesian government encouraging militant groups to attack Australia. This minority of extreme anti-Australian sentiment will continue to be of great concern to Indonesian and Australian policymakers alike, but it is not a good reason to jettison the relationship and with it fundamental Australian interests in a stable, democratic, economically thriving Indonesia favourably disposed towards its southern neighbour.

The opportunity presented by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's pro-Australian Presidency, which will come to an end in 2014, has almost been lost, but the need to turn the relationship around is no less critical to Australia. These poll findings are a wake-up call, a reminder Indonesia is ready for a rich, contemporary relationship. The question is, are we?

This article has been reproduced with the permission of Fergus Hanson and The Australian. Fergus Hanson is program director for polling at the Lowy Institute and a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution. The institute's Indonesia Poll 2012 : Shattering Stereotypes, Public Opinion and Foreign Policy is available at <http://www.lowyinstitute.org/>.

Urgent need for Carr to focus on Indonesia

Ross Taylor, The Indonesia Institute, 19 March, 2012

As Senator Bob Carr considers his priorities as the new foreign minister, relations with countries to our north will need early attention. China and its irritation at our decision to allow US troops to be based in Darwin is an obvious matter that needs to be addressed. Senator Carr will also need to reflect on another large and emerging neighbour whom our government has created a few 'Australia-made' irritations recently: Indonesia.

And there have been more than just a few, including the ongoing DFAT warnings for travel to Indonesia, including Bali; the expansion the 'Pacific Seasonal Worker Scheme' to include East Timor but omitting Indonesia; the live-cattle trade fiasco and the incarceration of Indonesian children in Australian jails. Senator Bob Brown's support of an independent West Papua, and the government's handling of the 'US Marines in Darwin' issue can be added to the list.

Tony Abbott has also added a few relationship 'bumps' by threatening to dump all asylum seekers back on Indonesian shores should he become Prime Minister.

Fortunately, Julie Bishop, the opposition's foreign spokesperson, reassured the Indonesian Ambassador that they would consult with Indonesia before they took any such action.

Whilst our embassy officials in Jakarta understand our northern neighbour intimately, our politicians have generally under-estimated the significance of an emerging Indonesia. Our former foreign minister, Kevin Rudd enjoyed a reasonable rapport with his Indonesian counterpart Marty Natalegawa, developed over an occasional cup-of-tea together at international gatherings in the northern hemisphere but the depth of the relationship, and serious understanding of Indonesia, and its complexity, by this government is still questionable.

Last week, Murdoch University's Professor David Hill released a major report to the Federal Government showing that the study of Indonesian language in Australia was in steep decline, with enrolments in universities falling by 40% between 2001- 2010, and Year 12 enrolments now lower than in 1972.

This is despite a 2008 commitment by the then prime minister, Kevin Rudd to make Asian languages - and in particular Indonesian - a priority of his government's schools program. Last year the Gillard government ceased all funding for that program.

In WA, the collapse of Indonesian language studies has come at a time when our state is building major business links with our neighbour. Apart from live cattle exports, we also sell over two million tonne of wheat a year to Indonesia, and numerous WA-based resource and manufacturing companies have built extensive and successful businesses there. Indonesia has a huge and emerging middle-class who

wants to travel. We are only three hours away, yet how much does Tourism WA spend promoting WA as an attractive and vibrant destination for Indonesians? Nothing.

It's also worth asking how many state politicians visited Indonesia over the parliamentary recess or how many government officials really know about Indonesia, or speak the language? Apart from Agricultural Minister Terry Redman and the Member for Perth, John Hyde, there is only a limited understanding about our northern neighbour.



Senator the Hon Bob Carr, HE Dr Marty Natalegawa (Indonesian Foreign Minister), HE Dr Purnomo Yusgiantoro (Indonesian Defence Minister) and Defence Minister Stephen Smith at the inaugural Australia-Indonesia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in Canberra on 15 March 2012.

Even more worrying is that within Indonesia, despite their president's genuine affection for Australia, his ministers now seem happier travelling to - and building relations with - countries to its north rather than Australia. One positive achievement was at the East-Asia Summit held in Bali in late 2011, where Australia and Indonesia agreed to proceed on the ANZFTA (Free Trade Agreement) that according to Trade Minister, Craig Emerson, "will further strengthen our joint trade relations". Business relations whilst 'under done' are warm, but that is only part of the bigger picture facing our two countries.

Indonesia is at a crossroad in its emergence as an effective democracy and a major international force. Fourteen years ago Australia looked warily north as Indonesia teetered on the brink of political and economic implosion following the collapse of the Suharto regime. They have since established a vibrant democracy and stable government throughout most of Indonesia; something that should not be lost on our new foreign minister.

If Australians have been worried about domestic 'leadership issues' recently, then perhaps they should also look north to Indonesia where the presidency of the internationally popular Dr. Yudhoyono is in trouble. The president's party (Party Democrat) is suffering from a

dramatic slump in the polls and Dr. Yudhoyono's own popularity is at an all time low, falling from 61% to just 42% as corruption issues threaten to swamp his final two years in office.

With 30 million people still living in poverty, the challenges for Indonesia, and implications for Australia, are profound. Australia can and needs to play a key role in addressing many of these issues. Not as an interfering neighbour, but as a close friend an ally who can use its advanced nation status to genuinely make a difference to the lives of Indonesia's people, whilst also benefiting ourselves from the resulting business opportunities and continued political stability in our own backyard.

A new trade agreement is a good start but what neither country needs are distractions caused by thoughtless policies and actions by our political leaders on both sides of parliament.

In any relationship of course – and particularly between two countries with such diverse cultures – 'bumps' will

inevitably occur.

What will really count however, is how committed the new foreign minister will be in developing a seriously close relationship with Indonesia. And also how effectively his government deals with these 'bumps' as they occur, to ensure we are not distracted from the 'big picture' opportunities and challenges facing our two countries as we support – and benefit from - our neighbour's transition to a major regional and world power.

Ross B. Taylor is the chairman of the WA-based Indonesia Institute (Inc).

We thank him for his permission to reprint this article.

More information on the Indonesia Institute can be accessed at: <http://www.indonesia-institute.org.au/index.htm>

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.



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.

Author: Scott Merrillees
Price: \$60 (US)
Publication Year: 2012

Format: Hardcover, 460 full coloured images

The First A.I.A president A.P. Elkin

By Neil Smith

Adolphus Peter Elkin was born in Maitland, NSW, in 1891. When he was young his parents separated, then soon after his mother passed away. A.P., as he was called, was sent to live with his grandparents in Singleton. He returned to Maitland where he finished school at East Maitland Boys High. After his schooling A.P. joined the Commonwealth Bank as a junior clerk. First he was sent to Quirindi then to the Uralla branch in the New England region in 1909. It was here he joined the Church of England Men's Society and, paradoxically, became drawn to the writings of Charles Darwin's book *The Origin of Species*. This inspired him to study anthropology.

In 1912 Elkin went to Sydney to become a minister of the church. He was ordained in Newcastle in 1915. As a minister he served in many parishes around N.S.W and, at the same time, he was able to complete his Master's Degree on Australian Aborigines. Soon after receiving his Masters, Elkin went to England to pursue a PhD in anthropology. A.P. received his PhD in 1927 and was awarded fellowship of the Royal Anthropological Society - quite an achievement for a minister of the church. On his return to Australia, Elkin travelled to the Kimberley's where he spent many years studying indigenous culture. He became an activist for the assimilation of Australia's indigenous population into western society.

At the same time he served in Morpeth as the local minister. Later in the early 1930 he became head of Anthropology at Sydney University. When at the University from the 1930 to the 1970, Elkin was editor of a well-known academic periodical called *The Oceania*. In the 1940s A.P. wrote his most well-known book, *Aboriginal Men of High Degree*. In this book he wrote of the cultural links between northern Australian Aborigines and Indonesia's Buddhist Hindu cultural past.

As World War II was coming to an end Professor Elkin, who was still head of anthropology at Sydney University, became a strong advocate of the Atlantic Charter, an agreement by which world powers agreed to end the colonization of Asia. Because of his insights into Indonesia, he was contacted by the newly formed Australia Indonesia Association and asked to be the Association's first President. As he was active on a number of other committees as President or Chairman, his role with the AIA was mainly one of a figurehead. A.P. Elkin passed away in Sydney at the age of 88 in 1979.

Sydney Harmony Day at Sydney Town Hall.

Sisca Hunt's group participated in the IWA (Indonesian Welfare Association) for the Sydney of City Living Harmony Day event on the 21st March. I was proud to be the choreographer and work along side a wonderful youth choir. My dances were performed with the choir and the visual and acoustic harmony worked extremely well. We will perform again on the 14th of April at the Alexandria Town Hall. For more information, please contact IWA 2955 80999 or you can call Sisca Hunt on 0422201873.

On 21st April is the Indonesia Community Council event at Marana Hall, Hurstville on Saturday 21st April 2012, starts 6.30pm. For further information contact Yoen Yahya on 4040 626 913.



Indonesian Classes

Learn Indonesian at the WEA, Sydney with Pak Stephanus Dharmanto
72 Bathurst St, Sydney, 2000 ph 9267 6988.

The courses are:

Indonesian Beginners 2, Course 22LG369

Monday 5.30 - 7.30pm from May 7

Indonesian Advanced Conversation, Course 22LG370

Monday 7.30 - 9.30pm from May 7

Fees are \$203 for 9 meetings

2012-2013 Entertainment Book will be available in April and can be ordered now

Sales of the Entertainment Book in 2011 raised AUS\$788 which was spent on building repair at Kupu Kupu Foundation, Ubud, Bali, fixing leaking roofs and termite-affected posts in anticipation of the rainy season. Funds raised through the sale of the Entertainment™ Book in 2012 will again go to Kupu Kupu Foundation.

You can now view each edition online (13 Australia wide, 5 for NSW) before you purchase at:

<http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/entertainment-media>

To order simply go to <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/20930t5>

The Australian Entertainment Books provide valuable discount offers for an area's best restaurants, cafes, activities, accommodation and more. Each edition covers a specific area/city in Australia. Depending on area, the Entertainment Book costs between AUS\$50 and AUS\$65 with 20% (between \$10 and \$13) from every book sold contributing to fundraising for Kupu Kupu. You really only need to use the book twice to gain back the value you paid for it, and if you use it no more than that (which is unlikely once you have seen the book) you will have donated 20% towards educational resources and operational costs for Kupu Kupu's Ubud and Bangli branches. Please consider buying one.

Books will be launched mid-April 2012 and, after that date, will be dispatched from Sydney within 7 days of receiving your order. If you have any queries, please contact Paulette Kay via email on paulettekay49@hotmail.com

Please visit www.kupukupufoundation.org for more information on the foundation which has two branches, the main one in Ubud and the other in Bangli. Under the directorship of the foundation's founder, Spanish social worker Begonia Lopez, both branches provide vital disability services to local people - adults and children – who are intellectually and/or physically disadvantaged. Rainbows for Children (<http://rainbowsforchildrenbali.com>) run by Marilyn Murray coordinates sponsorships for children and adults at Kupu Kupu.

PHOTOS: REPAIRS TO KUPU KUPU FOUNDATION PAID BY FUNDS RAISED IN 2011

Kitchen & toilet area of Kupu Kupu Foundation, Ubud:



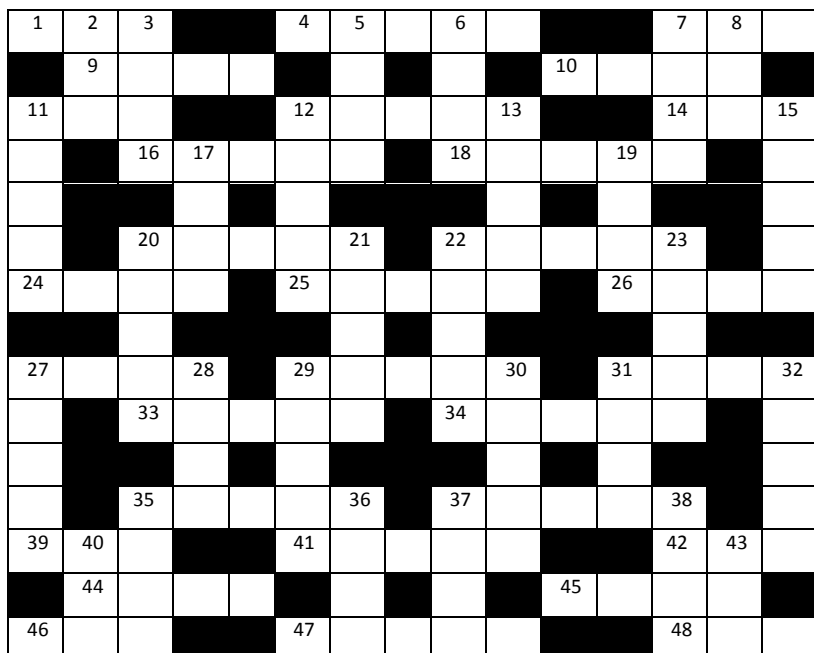
Photos from Jakarta By Night and the AGM



CROSSWORD

Created by Helen Anderson, AIA Victoria

Answers on the following page (no peeking)

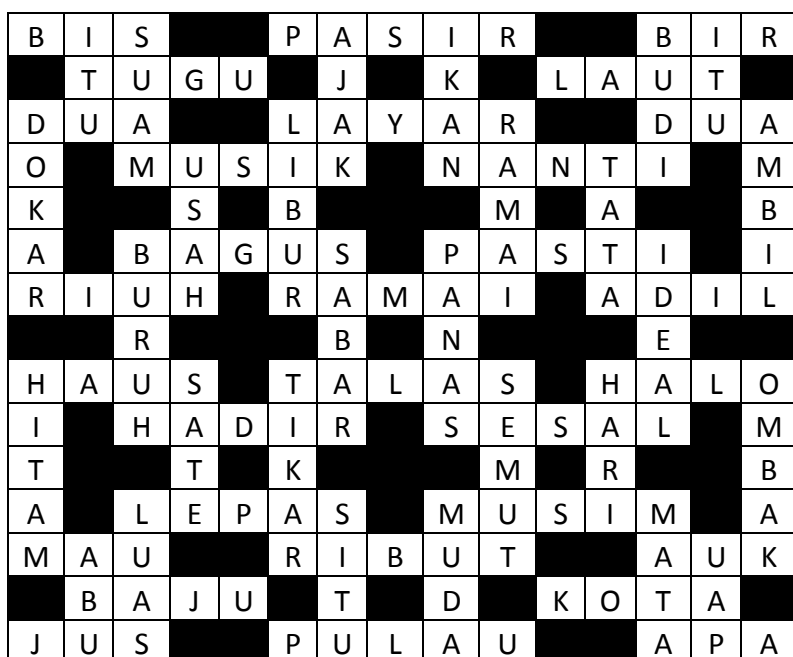


Across

1. Bus
4. Sand
7. Beer
9. Monument
10. Sea, ocean
11. Two
12. Sail
14. Two
16. Music
18. Soon
20. Good
22. Certain
24. Noisy
25. Crowded, busy
26. Fair
27. Thirsty
29. Taro
31. Hello
33. Be present
34. Regret
35. Free
37. Summer (---- *panas*)
39. Want
41. Storm
42. Bark (of a dog)
44. Swimsuit (---- *mandi*)
45. City
46. Juice
47. Island
48. What

Down

2. That
3. Warm
5. Invite along (----*serta*)
6. Fish
7. Mind
8. That
11. Horse drawn buggy
12. Vacation
13. Crowded, busy
15. Take
17. No need to (*tidak ----*)
19. Order, arrangement
20. Labourer
21. Patient
22. Hot
23. Ideal
27. Sunglasses (*kaca mata ----*)
28. Satay
29. A plaited mat
30. Ant
31. Day
32. Waves
35. Vast
36. There (within sight)
37. Young people (----*mudi*)
38. Eyes
40. Dust
43. Steam



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 and/or attended an Indonesia-related event, please feel free to write an article including photos. Send all material to Melanie at melaniemorrison@bigpond.com. Terima kasih.

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 June 2012.

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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