



KABAR

AIA News

Australia Indonesia Association

January – March 2013

Established in 1945

President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Here we are back into summer again. Isn't it great, with daylight saving, and pre and post Christmas catch-ups.

Amidst all this good cheer, we lost our dearly beloved patron, Charlotte "Lottie" Maramis who passed away at the age of 85.



Lottie Maramis

I have only known Lottie since we moved back to Sydney in 1998 after living for many years in Indonesia. We attended quite a few Indonesian community gatherings, and Lottie was usually there. It really wasn't until I became involved with the AIA a few years later that I learnt a little more about her background and her association with the AIA since it was founded in 1945.

One of my first tasks as the newly elected president of AIA was to find someone suitable to be our Patron. Of course Lottie came to mind, so I purposely met with her at some of the functions to learn more about her, and then when the time was ripe, I asked her whether she would consider becoming our patron. She was so thrilled to be asked, and

immediately started suggesting things we could do to raise the profile of the AIA. Since then she has been involved in everything we have done, from attending committee meetings to helping organise functions such as the Spring Fairs. At the Spring Fairs she would have a small stand to sell Indonesian knick-knacks, raising money for her beloved Blind Children's School in Menado. This was "Lottie's Stall", and all her friends would stop by for a chat.

Earlier this year the AIA decided to provide a scholarship for NSW students in Year 12 going on to study Indonesian at University. We agreed to name it the "Lottie Maramis Indonesian Scholarship". When I asked her if she would agree to the scholarship being in her name, she was tickled pink, and was looking forward to making the first presentation of the scholarship in December. Unfortunately she could not be there.

Her funeral was attended by a large cross section of the Indonesian community, and several AIA members were present to say goodbye. Hamish McDonald wrote a wonderful obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (see below), and there is some talk about having her books combined and re-published.

The community is planning a function at the Wisma Indonesia on Sunday 6 January 2013 to commemorate Lottie's life. On behalf of the AIA committee and members, I would like to extend our condolences to Lottie's family and her many friends. She was a great lady, and we will miss her greatly.

Congratulations to Jessica Lean from Woollooware High School who received the first "Lottie Maramis Indonesian Scholarship". Anthony Liem and Marilyn Campbell joined me for the presentation to Jessica. You can read more about it in Anthony's article.

We all heard a lot about the "Asian Century" and the need for more Asian studies in our schools. I am pleased to report that the NSW Education Department reversed an earlier decision to discontinue the Indonesian Language Support position.

In the previous *Kabar*, I spoke of the "Diaspora Indonesia", bringing Indonesian communities together around the world. This is progressing and there has been lots of discussion on Facebook.

More recently we had a visit from the Indonesian Education Department who are looking into the possibility of establishing Indonesian Cultural Centres in at least 4 major cities around the world including possibly in Sydney. Several community groups met (including the AIA) to discuss how this might work, and we presented an outline to the visiting delegation.

The AIA in Victoria have been running a successful student exchange program with Indonesia, and also an "immersion" course in Yogyakarta. We will work with them to promote these activities in NSW.

I was recently invited to speak at a "cultural awareness" lunch at Lend Lease. Staff members speak about their own cultural backgrounds and they invite guest speakers to add another dimension to the talks. A great way to increase understanding of other people's cultures.

The new Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, Pak Nadjib Riphath Kesomo has presented his credentials. He was previously posted in Canberra from 1999 to 2002. I look forward to meeting with him.

Welcome to Richard Pearse and Bernard Lane who have recently joined the AIA, and to Jessica Lean and Katie Croaker, our new student members. I look forward to seeing them at our next function.

Speaking of our next function, this will be a barbecue on Saturday 2 February 2013 (the weekend after the Australia Day holiday. Hope you can join us. Our AGM will be in March and we are preparing another function around then. Could I also remind you that membership renewals can be made for 2013. Simply 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.

On behalf of the AIA Committee, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Eric de Haas



Charlotte (Lottie) Maramis and Arthur Locke/Chang reunited recently after so many years



Lottie, Eric de Haas and Susca Hunt at Eric's Christmas gathering



Lottie and Hamish McDonald at Lottie's book launch

Charlotte Maramis 1927-2012

By Hamish McDonald



Lotte and Anton Maramis

That love knows no national boundaries or political policy limitations was proven again in the years around the end of the Second World War after a 17-year-old Sydney girl named Charlotte Reid set eyes on a young merchant navy petty officer from the Netherland East Indies, then under Japanese occupation.

It was towards the end of 1944 at the Indonesian Club in Sydney's George Street, a large room above a shop where young men from the Indies met to play their guitars, dance with local friends, and discuss the boiling question of independence for the nation they called Indonesia.

Anton Maramis, a ship's purser, was crew in the Dutch Indies shipping line, the KPM, which sailed its surviving ships to Australia ahead of the Japanese invasion. His ship, the Kremer, began shuttling men and supplies up to New Guinea until wrecked in 1943.

Son of a protestant minister in Manado, in the far north of Sulawesi, Anton took up office work in KPM's temporary headquarters in Margaret Street, and was billeted with several other KPM personnel in a Kings Cross hotel. A fellow lodger was a family friend of Charlotte's mother, Elsie Reid, who met the young Indonesians and invited them back to dinner at their home in Manly.

Charlotte was not there for that encounter, but went with her mother when Anton reciprocated with an invitation to the Indonesian club. She had never had a boyfriend before. Anton was nearly 10 years her senior, handsome and dashing in his brass-buttoned uniform of the KPM, the Dutch shipping company of the Indies, and had arrived in company with a glamorous showgirl from the Tivoli theatre, Diana Hart.

At first she assumed Anton was already taken. "But I knew immediate that I fell in love with Anton," she recalled recently. Anton kept looking at her, and a friendship developed on more visits. Soon he declared his love. By then Anton was deeply involved in rousing support for Indonesia's independence. Elsie and Lottie Reid became active members of the Australia-Indonesia Association, headed by the clergyman and anthropologist Professor A.P. Elkin, formed in response in July 1945. Lottie, who died in Sydney on November 26, two days short of her 85th birthday, was the last surviving member of the founding committee.

This all aroused antagonism by Netherlands East Indies officials, exiled to Brisbane during the war. They had brought their political prisoners, kept in camps in Queensland and NSW until a public outcry forced their release. The Dutch urged Canberra to crack down.

Australian policy still supported the return of the pre-1942 status quo in Southeast Asia. In addition, the Immigration Minister, Arthur Calwell, was hostile to the idea of non-Europeans infiltrating White Australia, and wanted all the Indonesians out as soon as possible.

As the war neared an end, Anton quit the KPM and went underground, vanishing from the podium at the Paddington Town Hall and other venues when tipped off that police and customs officials were arriving. "I would see Anton when he was in hiding but I didn't know where he was, and my mother thought it better I didn't know," Lottie recalled. "I'd meet him somewhere or other and suddenly he'd disappear again."

Eventually in October 1945, officials caught Anton and along with some 2000 other Indonesians sent them back to Batavia (Jakarta) on the troopship Esperance Bay. As the ship sailed from Pyrmont, Lottie cried her eyes out, wondering if she would see him again.

Anton had asked to marry Lotte. Her parents were remarkably free of the racial prejudice of the times. Her gregarious mother had kept open house for servicemen from all nations far from home in wartime Sydney, including the Indonesians. Her father, John Reid, was a veteran sea captain who had knocked around Asia and developed a respect for its peoples.

Yet they worried about Lotte's very young age, and Anton's uncertain future. They told Anton that if he went home, came back in a year or two, and feelings were the same, they would agree to the marriage.

On landing in Jakarta, Anton made his way to the revolutionary headquarters in Yogyakarta, Central Java, and joined the struggle against the returned Dutch. Well educated in a Lutheran seminary, speaking English and Dutch, he was made a member of Sukarno's provisional parliament.

After a year he was sent back to Sydney by the foreign minister, Ruslan Abdulgani, with a charter to set up a trade office to earn income for the new republic. In January 1947 he and Lottie married in Sydney's Wesley Chapel, with the former war artist and newspaper caricaturist Tony Rafty acting as Anton's best man.

At the boarding house in Thirroul where they spent a brief honeymoon, they noticed fellow guests reading a Sydney newspaper report of their wedding, along statements by an "expert" on the Indies that Australian brides like Lottie would soon end up in thatch huts, washing clothes in filthy canals.

They took a small flat at Kings Cross, but the trade venture foundered in bickering by others interested in making money from the new relationship. Four months later Calwell had Anton deported again. He moved to Singapore to purchase arms for the Indonesian forces. Lottie and her mother sailed up to meet him there, but British officials promptly handed Anton over to the Dutch, who kept him in prison for 10 months.

Finally, in December 1949, just before the Dutch gave up and handed over, they moved to Jakarta, taking up residence not in a thatch hut, but part of a solid Dutch mansion in the leafy suburb of Menteng.

The early years of the new republic were exciting a turbulent, with life interrupted by hyper-inflation, food shortages, and military unrest. Anton and Lottie became actively involved in its affairs at high level, helping translate Sukarno's landmark speeches, assisting with the historic Bandung conference of non-aligned countries. When the publisher Herawati Diah started an English-language paper, the Indonesian Observer, Lottie became the writer of several regular features and her own and assumed names, including the popular "Busybee" society column.

Like Mochtar Lubis and many others Anton became disillusioned with the corruption and inequality that developed in the new republic. He resisted blandishments and threats to join the anti-Sukarno rebellion that sprang up in 1957 in Manado and parts of Sumatra, with covert assistance from the CIA, but felt out of favour as Sukarno veered closer to the Indonesian communists.

In 1961 Lottie returned to Sydney to look after her ailing mother, and Anton joined her soon after. They set up home in Earlwood. Anton took up work in the Indonesian consulate-general, and Lottie helped start a local free newspaper and wrote for it. For years the Maramis home was a hub of Sydney's Indonesian community, particularly students, hosting lunches and dinners for up to 200 at a time.



Lotte, Mochtar Lubis and Herawati Diah

Anton died in 1999. Lotte continued activity as a much loved member of the Indonesian community, constantly raising funds for a school for blind children she and Anton had founded in Manado. Despite precarious health, she was planning to revisit the school in January. She also wrote three short volumes about her life and a book of short stories.

To her regret she and Anton had no children, but Lottie was a devoted aunt and great aunt. She is survived by her younger brother John Reid, numerous nephews and nieces and their children.

Lottie is affectionately remembered in Indonesia for her roles supporting independence and starting English-language journalism in the country, said Adrian Vickers, professor of Southeast Asian Studies at Sydney University.

"One of the many remarkable things about her is how at such a young age she was prepared to throw herself into a completely different life, and thrive in that environment of Jakarta in the 1950s, which cannot have been easy, as much as she made it sound like fun," he said.

"While governments may talk about economic or strategic ties with Indonesia, here was someone who from the beginning of the Republic was living out the deep human connections that make such ties real."

"We regarded her as our ibu (mother)," said the Indonesian consul-general in Sydney, Gary Jusuf. "She loved Indonesia so much and was always devoted to strengthening relations between Australia and Indonesia in her own way. It is a big loss for us." --
(Re-published courtesy of Hamish McDonald)

Trials and Detention of Indonesian Crew

By John Luxton

The media for some years has been full of reports of boatloads of persons from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan arriving in Australian waters and then claiming to be refugees. Most of the boats, until recently, have set out from Indonesia with an Indonesian captain and crew. The crew have for the most part, been the forgotten item in the operation.

The people traffickers need four parts to ply their trade, namely passengers, captain, crew and a cheap boat to make a one-way trip as the Australian authorities destroy all boats on arrival.

Indonesian crew arriving on refugee boats are immediately taken into custody on arrival in Australia and charged under the Migration Act. There are usually two or three crew on each boat and anywhere between 30 and 150 refugees or so-called passengers.

Many of the crew are Indonesian kampong or village folk who are poor and don't realize what they are getting into when approached to crew a boat in Java and Nusa Tenggara. The captain, recruited by the people smugglers and who has a knowledge of engine repairs and navigation is whisked back to Java in a small fast boat when the refugee boat is approaching the Australian maritime boundary about thirty kilometres from the coast.

On arrival the crew are immediately separated from the passengers, interviewed, charged as criminals under the Migration Act with assisting the illegal arrival of five or more persons into Australia and sent on remand to an Australian jail. The charge for this offence is five years mandatory jail term with a non-parole period of three years.

If they plead guilty the mandatory sentence is applied. If they plead not guilty the matter goes to court and they are represented by Legal Aid Services. About forty per cent are found not guilty, but this is usually after spending one to two years in jail on remand and each trial costing the Australian taxpayers around \$250,000. This has resulted in some hope by the Indonesian inmates and their lawyers to plead not guilty.

In recent years there have been approximately 200 Indonesians in NSW jails alone at a cost to the Australian Government of \$80,000 per inmate each year.

The suffering of these crewmen and the cost to the Australian taxpayers has not become an issue in the wider community and in turn not a political issue. The Australia Indonesia Association of NSW has been making compassionate visits to a number of crew inmates, both those already found guilty and those on remand pending trial.

There appears to be a change of approach by the Australian Government in the last six months and the

change could have come from the senior levels of the Attorney Generals Department. This change could be driven by both small groups lobbying the government and fear the huge cost of the exercise could become political in the wider Australian community.

The sentence under the Migration Act for assisting one person to illegally enter Australia is generally about one year. The Governments new approach is to charge the inmates with only assisting one illegal person, the inmate pleads guilty they are convicted without a court case and as they have been in remand jail for longer than the sentence they can be released to a detention centre pending formalities and sent home to Indonesia.



Drawing by Anthony Liem of a people smuggling court case in action

In NSW approximately 190 Indonesians have been repatriated home in recent months and most of those still in jails have already been convicted in court.

I strongly feel our jail visits have been worthwhile and given the guys a little bit of relief from a dreary soul destroying existence. After all these are good kampong souls who normally lead a free but poor life in the lanes, paddies and vegetation of Indonesia with mud under their feet and the wide sky above.

John Luxton
Australia Indonesia Association of NSW

LOTTIE MARAMIS INDOONESIAN SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION AT WOOLLOOWARE HIGH SCHOOL



On December 14, at Woollooware High School near Cronulla, the AIA Lottie Maramis Scholarship was presented to Year 12 student, Jessica Lean. The Lottie Maramis Scholarship was created by the AIA to encourage students to study Indonesian at university, a fitting memorial to the late Tante Lottie, who passed away on December 3 this year.

The Scholarship is to be granted annually to a student who has demonstrated considerable ability in the study of Indonesian in Year 12 and who intends to continue in this field at University level. It is the first time that this scholarship has been offered by the AIA. Jessica also won the RF Scarf Award for Commitment.

Eric de Haas presented several prizes at the school's Presentation Day on December 14 and Marilyn Campbell and Anthony Liem were also in attendance.

Woollooware High School teaches Indonesian from Year 7 to Year 12. Unfortunately the Indonesian Teaching Assistant, Sri Rahasti, is leaving, and it is hoped that a suitable replacement can be found soon, to ensure continuity in the students' Indonesian studies at Woollooware.

By Anthony Liem

FOCUS ON BOOKS

An Endless Journey



Herawati Diah's journey began in 1917, when she was born into an upper-class priyayi family. While most intellectuals of the time were drawn to the Netherlands and western Europe for their studies, Herawati was the first Indonesian woman to obtain a degree from an American university. This later aroused the ire and the suspicion of the Dutch East Indies colonial authorities and she was imprisoned on her arrival back in Indonesia. With the arrival of the Japanese Imperial Forces in 1942, Herawati was released, once again free to resume her journey. Marriage to prominent journalist B.M. Diah, who later became ambassador to Czechoslovakia, Britain and Thailand as well as Information Minister in the Sukarno and Soeharto Cabinets, provided Herawati with privileged access and an insider's view on the struggles – and successes – of Indonesia's journey as an independent nation.

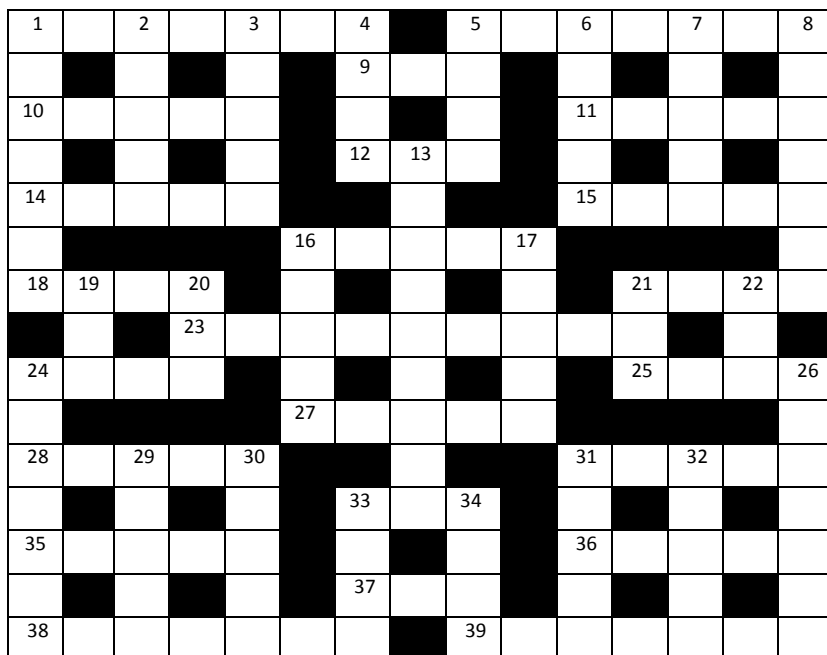
\$19.95

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.

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.

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 March 2013.

Patron

Lottie Maramis

President

Eric de Haas

president@australia-indonesia-association.com**Vice President 1**

Neil Smith

vicepresident1@australia-indonesia-association.com**Vice President 2**

Lini Kuhn

vicepresident2@australia-indonesia-association.com**Secretary**

Neil Smith

secretary@australia-indonesia-association.com**Treasurer & Public Officer**

John Luxton

treasurer@australia-indonesia-association.com**Committee Members:**

Marilyn Campbell, Ken Geden, Sisca Hunt, Graham Ireland, Andre Iswandi, Anthony Liem, Anthony McMullen, Melanie Morrison, Miriam Tulevski

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