



# KABAR

## AIA News Australia Indonesia Association

April – June 2014

*Established in 1945*

Hi Everyone,

We are now well into 2014.

On the political scene, the government-to-government relationship has not improved since late last year following the phone tapping revelations and the “turning back the boats” issue. The Indonesian Ambassador to Australia has still not officially returned to his post in Canberra, although I understand he visited for a few days recently.

2014 is a big year in Indonesia with the parliamentary elections in April and the Presidential elections in July. The various candidates are jockeying for the positions and lining up political party support. We may see a generational change in leadership and in the status quo, and possibly some surprise candidates. The popular Jakarta Governor Jokowi has declared he is a candidate for the presidential election, so it will be very interesting to see how it all pans out. Here in Sydney the Consulate is busy preparing for the election with voting booths to be set up at a couple of locations on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Schappelle Corby was released from Kerobokan Prison and is now on parole with strict conditions, apparently staying in an expensive villa in Bali.

If you have been following the AAMI story about Rhonda and Ketut, you might like to know that they are back together again with Rhonda stating “Saya cinta kamu too”. Not only has this advertising campaign been good for the company, but it has also done a lot to foster relationships between Indonesians and Australians.

In early March I was in Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timur for a week to review an AusAID funded project, and I was again impressed with the increasing level of activity taking place. The airport terminal is being renovated and construction has started on a large private hospital, which I understand will be managed by the Lippo Siloam group. High rise hotels are also springing up.

Here in Sydney there have been a few Indonesian related activities in recent months:

- AIA committee members Sisca Hunt staged a wonderful dance spectacular in Marrickville. It was a blend of Indonesian and Indian interpretations of the Ramayana epic.
- A group of concerned Australians and Indonesians have joined together to form The Indonesian Life Improvement Association of Australia which seeks funding for supporting children’s projects in Indonesia.
- The Indonesia Community Council held a very successful Harmon Day function at Burwood.
- The Australia Indonesia Business Council (AIBC) held the first of their planned regular networking sessions in Sydney. The turnout was good despite the rain.

Our annual AIA Barbecue was well attended. This was followed recently with our Annual General Meeting and a short talk by some of our members on their visits to Indonesian seamen who have been imprisoned in Sydney and other locations.



Hard at work at the AGM

The AGM saw the election of the existing committee (including yours truly) and the addition of 2 new committee members, Paul Murphy as Secretary and Yohanna Cocks as a committee member.

Maire Playford, a Year 11 student from Macarthur Anglican School, in Cobbity, NSW was our scholarship winner to attend the 2 week immersion course in Yogyakarta in January this year. She had a wonderful time and we received a tremendous letter from her parents thanking the AIA for the way the whole thing was organized.

Mr. Gary Jusuf, the Indonesian Consul General in Sydney, finished his term recently to take up a posting as Ambassador to Fiji. There were no elaborate farewell functions but he called me to thank the AIA for the support we have given to him and his

## SITA

Struggle and Triumph  
(Behind the scenes)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March at the Red Rattler performance space in Marrickville, crowds were treated to a wonderful rendition of SITA – struggle and triumph created by Sisca Hunt.

SITA was a wonderful success on many accounts. Sisca Hunt received an Independent Artist Grant from the Marrickville Council. The grant provided the opportunity to create our dance theatre production SITA. Our focus in production, rotated around the strength and emotional struggles of Princes SITA.

SITA provides a new perspective on the ancient classic epic Ramayana story.

As part of Harmony Day, our intention was to involve a fusion of cultures. Indian dancers were used in our casting. Rahwana, the demon, captures Sita and escapes to his foreign castle in Alengka. Our Indian dancers perform a theme dance surrounding our princess.

In the opening scene a choir performed in the ancient Ayodya palace ballroom, a poet read her own poetry accompanied by flute describing our princess Sita emotional struggles. Wayang puppets help connect some scenes, they flow into live performance on stage.

This project has taken over 6 months, to combine and find a cast of talented dancers developed into a search covering 3 states. The cast is a combination balanced between youth and experience.

wife, and to wish us well in our activities. We understand that his replacement may not take up the posting for several months.

Welcome to several new members who have joined over recent months, including Endri Sutiyan and family, Paul and Christine Murphy, Yohanna Cocks and Adam Hodgson.

Thank you also to those of you who have renewed your memberships. If you have still not done so, please go to our [website](#) and see how easy it is to renew!

Creating the script and accompanying sound track presented an interesting and challenging role for our choreographer. A live choir and the accompanying sound of gamelan moves into our Indian theme, combined with the pace and lift of Bollywood. This provided a spectacular fusion of sights and sounds.

We had to keep within our limited budget for marketing, promotional material, theatre, travel, etc. SITA received excellent sponsors. We would like to thank the Marrickville Council, Indonesian Embassy Canberra, NSW Indonesian Consulate, Indomedia and PT Sosro.



## WE GO WAY BACK: INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA

by Luke Dawes, the Chapter President of [AIYA Victoria](#).

The contemporary relationship gets plenty of attention, but there were economic and cultural ties between Indigenous Australians and Indonesia long before European colonisation.



A Yolngu painting of a 'Macassan perahu' [photographed by Australian National University researchers in Arnhem Land](#).

Despite recent controversies, it is an exciting time to be young and interested in the Australia-Indonesia relationship at all levels. With this in mind, it is constructive to consider how this strong youth engagement can encompass a truly representative range of Australians and Indonesians.

The [Australia-Indonesia Muslim Youth Exchange Program](#) sees young Australian Muslims visiting their counterparts in Indonesia to raise awareness on the role of Islam in the two countries, and Indonesian participants on the Australia-Indonesia Youth Exchange Program are routinely drawn from former "hotspot" provinces such as Aceh, Maluku and Papua.

However, there is a concerning absence of Australians of Indigenous descent with a visible role in the bilateral relationship. This is unfortunate, because the history of links between Australians of Indigenous descent and the people of Makassar in Sulawesi suggests that the relationship need not be viewed solely through the lenses of politics and

business.

While formal ties are typically dated to 1949, with the exchange of diplomatic missions and the mutual recognition of governments, academic literature places first contact among the Yolngu people of Arnhem Land and the Makassarese people of Sulawesi somewhere between the mid-seventeenth to mid-eighteenth centuries.

This early trade relationship was based on the trepang, the Makassarese (and now Indonesian) word for what is known in English as the [sea cucumber](#). This gelatinous invertebrate was of little value either to the Yolngu or the Europeans, but large volumes were supplied by the Makassarese to Chinese markets, where the trepang was used in local cuisine and traditional medicine.

The Makassarese brought cloth, metal tools and rice to Arnhem Land, among other commodities; in exchange, the Yolngu negotiated fishing rights and allowed the establishment of temporary outposts for

the Makassarese to boil and dry their catch.

Arguably the most durable aspect of this interaction, however, was the emergence of a specialised contact language. This form of communication, known as the Macassan language, had a lasting impact on the vocabulary of the Yolngu-Matha languages, which are among the few Australian languages to survive to the present day.

The Macassan language was used between speakers of Yolngu-Matha languages and Austronesian languages in the Indonesian archipelago to conduct trade, but also among Top End communities that had previously had little to no contact with one another; young unattached men from these communities joined the seafaring Makassarese on their coastal forays and

communicated with each other partly, if not entirely, using this contact language.

Scholars have identified over two hundred words that, to varying degrees, are considered to have come into the Yolngu-Matha languages by way of the Austronesian languages spoken in the Indonesian archipelago. Makassarese and Buginese are believed to have contributed the vast majority of these words, although some of them have been flagged for further investigation.

The following table shows a selection of words that demonstrate strong language links between the Austronesian languages of Indonesia and the Yolngu-Matha languages of Arnhem Land; Indonesian speakers will have no trouble recognising them.

Yolngu-Matha	Makassarese	English
prau	perahu	boat
ringi	ringgit (Malay)	money
dait	duit (Malay)	money
bulan	bulan	month
gapala	kapal	boat/ship
racun	racun	poison

baju	baju	shirt; coat
balanda	belanda	european/white-man
bandira	bandera	flag
batu	batu	stone
baqa	bunga	perfume, powder, arc
dinggi	tinggi	tall
gayu	kayu	wood
gala	gula	sugar, syrup
jaga	jaga	protect

This trade relationship, however, deteriorated quickly following Federation in 1901; licensing fees and customs duties enacted by the Australian

colonial governments caused *trepanging* to dwindle toward the end of the nineteenth century, while hundreds of Indonesians living and working in

Australia left after the introduction of the White Australia Policy.

That the Yolngu-Matha languages have survived at all makes them unusual; indeed, these languages continue to be passed on from one generation to the next. The Gupapuyngu language has been used in modern musical productions, theatrical performances, written publications and at least one full-length audio-visual narrative, and these remnants of interaction survive to this day.

Strategies to increase bilateral youth engagement are developing quickly, and these strategies are being shaped by and for young Australians and Indonesians. Ensuring that these engagement strategies are truly inclusive and truly representative, however, presents a much more difficult challenge; without taking a balanced and respectful approach to engaging young Australians of Indigenous descent in the bilateral relationship—particularly at such a crucial stage in it—Australia and Indonesia cannot hope to pay homage to the very first relationships that brought them together.



### Banda Island Print of 1810

By Neil Smith

An old naval print came in to my possession recently when I was sent a print, entitled, *Capture of the Island of Banda, August 1810*. I immediately pulled out Ian Burnet's *Spice Islands* book. From Ian's book I discovered the print illustrates the taking of the Dutch garrison on Banda Island by British forces on 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 1810. In military terms the operation was an outstanding success.

Why take Banda? Because the as the Netherlands became part of Napoleon's empire, the strongly pro-French Willem Daendels was appointed Governor of the Dutch East Indies in 1807.

In 1810 the Netherlands was formally annexed by France, putting the Dutch and the British on opposing sides.

The French and British were each seeking to control lucrative Indian Ocean trade routes. 1810, a sizeable squadron left Madras,

India, with money, supplies and troops to support the garrison at Amboyna, recently captured from the Dutch.

When the fleet reached Ambon in the Malukus, there was a swift battle and Ambon fell to British forces within two days.

The fleet sailed on to Banda and on August 9 1810 reached Banda Neira. The 36 gun ship HM Caroline and the 38 gun ship H.M Piedmontaise with the 18 gun ship Barracouta had around 200 men

standing on their deck ready to go into actions.

What was to happen was one of the British navy's most successful victories. In the predawn a small flotilla moved away from the ships towards the coast. The detachment of men of the Madras European regiments came ashore as dawn broke. The aim was to take the local Dutch garrison by surprise.

The flotilla was lucky in that the rain obscured their approach. They moved fast towards Fort Belgica, the location of the Dutch garrison. The Fort was built similar to a walled

European medieval castle, located on a hill overlooking the town and harbour.

With ladders the British were over the outer wall ramparts before being noticed. There was cross-fire before the main citadel was in British control. By the time Captain Cole took control there were 10 fatalities and around 30 prisoners.

Most of the Dutch garrison fled during the assault. There was no loss of men or equipment and British Captain Cole discovered that the fort contained 400,000 British pounds worth of spices in stock. The stock

was impounded to become prize money for those involved in the assault. Later the islands of Ternate and Tidore were taken. Then Batavia and Java fell to the British.

Captain Cole's naval success led to his appointment as a Member of the British Parliament – a position he held for 13 years until his death in 1836.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Indonesian Film Festival Sydney – 25 to 27 April 2014

Due to positive responses by audiences in Melbourne, Indonesian Film Festival (IFF) is making its comeback for its 9<sup>th</sup> year in Melbourne and Sydney. Organised collaboratively by Indonesian Students Association of University of Melbourne and University of Technology, Sydney, the festival has become an annual celebration of Indonesian cinema since 2006.

IFF Sydney will be held at Event Cinemas George Street. To be screened are 3 highly-acclaimed Indonesian movies spanning over 3 days of the festival. With special guest appearances by Mira Lesmana (Producer of *Sokola Rimba*) and Prisia Nasution (*Sokola Rimba*), audience will be enlightened with insightful information during Q&A sessions. In addition, IFF presents an educational program targeting schools that offer Indonesian studies program.

The highlight of the festival is *The Jungle School (Sokola Rimba)* directed by Riri Riza, a movie based on true story about a female activist who stands for her passion to teach the children of Rimba despite strong opposition from Rimba elders. It is a touching journey that explores the undiscovered side of Indonesia. The story takes the audience to the unseen reality of rural living not covered by many commercial media. *The Jungle School* will be screened in Sydney on 27 April.

Movies selected by IFF are carefully chosen to best capture the essence of Indonesian diverse culture and unique cinematography. Movie enthusiasts, filmmakers and festival-goers are sure to enjoy the experience. Tickets will be available at [www.iffaustralia.com/ticketing](http://www.iffaustralia.com/ticketing) or [tickets@iffaustralia.com](mailto:tickets@iffaustralia.com). For general enquiries, please visit [www.iffaustralia.com](http://www.iffaustralia.com).

### Features of IFF Sydney

- Q&A session with Guest Stars

*The Jungle School (Sokola Rimba)*: 27 April, 08:30PM-09:00PM

Featuring Mira Lesmana (Producer), Prisia Nasution (Leading actress), Butet Manurung (Real life figure)

- Educational Program at University of Technology, Sydney (Broadway Campus)

9 Summers 10 Autumns – 25 April, 10:00AM

- Movie Screenings at Event Cinemas George Street

Something in the Way – 25 April, 07:00PM

What They Don't Talk About When They Talk About Love – 26 April, 07:00PM  
The Jungle School (*Sokola Rimba*) – 27 April, 07:00PM

### Ticket Pricing

General Admission: \$17

For further information on ticketing contact:

Loretta Suhero: 0452 197 705 | [tickets@iffsydney.com](mailto:tickets@iffsydney.com)

### AIA Scholarship Recipient Returns from Yogya

Maire Playford from Macarthur Anglican School was awarded with the inaugural AIA CommBank Scholarship. The Indonesian Embassy in Canberra also contributed to the award. Maire spent two enjoyable weeks in Yogyakarta in January undertaking the immersion program.

As part of her evaluation Maire noted: “This program has certainly provided a boost to my Indonesian studies, as apart from being a wonderful experience, I know the skills and understanding I have gained will continue to be of assistance throughout the year. I feel as though I have a more holistic and informed appreciation of Indonesia as a nation after having had first-hand exposure to the language and culture.”

Maire has also noticed, “Since returning to school, I have already noticed a significant improvement in my speaking and listening skills. I have found that I possess much greater confidence to utilise the language I have in speaking, and have improved intonation and pronunciation. In listening, I find it much easier to distinguish words and deduce meaning after experiencing the immersion this program offered.

Photos from Maire's time in Yogya.



## Inmate Outreach Project By John Luxton

Our project visiting Indonesian inmates in NSW jails is drawing to a close.

Over a year ago the Australian Government of the day changed the way mandatory sentencing laws for people smuggling were applied. At their peak the refugee boats were carrying anywhere between twenty and over a hundred passengers but the charge for crew was made for assisting the arrival of one illegal person which carried a mandatory sentence of one year instead of five years for five or more persons. As most Indonesian crewmen were in remand awaiting trial for over a year if they pleaded guilty were eligible to be returned home. The Indonesians already convicted still had to serve out their longer sentences.

At its peak there were over one hundred Indonesians in Australian jails. The cost of keeping a prisoner in jail is approximately \$80,000 per year.

Now we only know of two remaining in NSW. One is an old man in Tamworth and the other in Muswellbrook who we understand is having some coping difficulties with his situation. We have heard there are still some Indonesians in Canberra jail.

Last December Michael, Zoe and I visited Agus and Ambo at Muswellbrook jail. They seemed in reasonable spirits considering their situation and near the end of incarceration in February 2014. They worked in the prison vegetable garden outside the wire and next to the Northern train line. They knew the names in English of the many vegetables being grown and particularly enjoyed waving to train drivers.

We then visited Agus and Ambo at the Dawn de Loas jail at Silverwater, Sydney which is a staging centre for their release and return to Indonesia last February.

A summary of our Jail visits are, 16 prisoners visited over in six different jails. Most have been

visited more than once and a total of 37 visits.

The other activity I have been involved in to get a further insight into the refugee issue is attending the trials of people smugglers in Sydney courts. I attended the sentencing hearing of an Iraqi who travelled frequently between Australia, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta organising the trade. The judge took 65 minutes giving a full summary of the man's activities before handing down a sentence of three and a half years. He came to Australia as a refugee in 2001.

The other recent trial is of another man from a Middle Eastern country. He claimed his work was just to pick up people from Jakarta airport and take them to their hotel.

If any members are interested in attending two court cases in April and May please contact me for details.

## EVENTS

### 2014 INDONESIAN ELECTION PREVIEW

Thursday, 3 April - doors open 6:00pm  
The Mitchell Theatre, Level 1, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt St, Sydney  
**FREE event**, light refreshments and drinks will be provided. **Please RSVP your attendance by registering on Eventbrite.** Please email [nsw@aiya.org.au](mailto:nsw@aiya.org.au) if you have any questions about the event. Hosted by the AIYA.

This Election Preview will consist of seven short presentations from the brightest minds in the Australia-Indonesia relationship.

**Associate Professor Simon Butt**, University of Sydney Law Faculty  
**Conjoint Associate Professor David Reeve**, University of New South Wales

**Dr Ross Tapsell**, Australian National University  
**Natalie Sambhi**, Analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute  
**Fritz Siregar**, University of New South Wales  
**Fajar Hirawan**, The University of Sydney  
**Alison Martin**, Communications & Policy Advisor for a Greens MP in the NSW Parliament

### 26 - 28 April – Indonesian Film Festival Event Cinema Sydney

More information: <http://iffsydney.com/>

### 14-15 June – Garden of the East, Indonesian Photo Exhibition, National Gallery of Australia

Talks and tours dance performance and films in conjunction with the exhibition.

*Garden of the East: photography in Indonesia 1850s–1940s* offers the chance to see images from the last

century of colonial rule in the former Dutch East Indies. It includes over two hundred photographs, albums and illustrated books from the Gallery's extensive collection of photographic art from our nearest Asian neighbour.

More information: <http://nga.gov.au/GardenEast/>

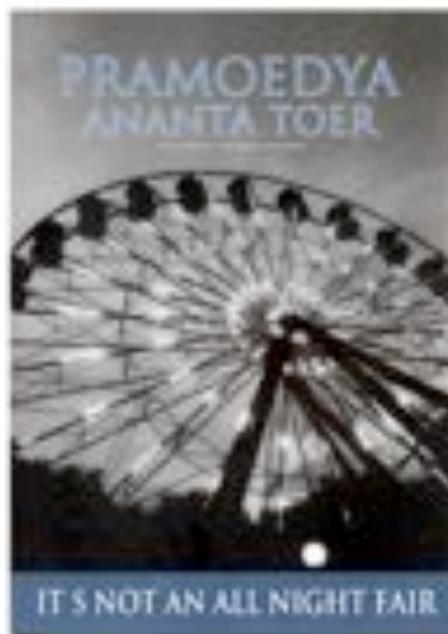
## FOCUS ON BOOKS

### It's Not An All Night Fair

*Pramoedya Ananta Toer*

Pramoedya Ananta Toer is Indonesia's most celebrated writer, with over thirty works of fiction translated into over thirty languages, and the recipient of many major international awards, including the grand prize in the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize competition, Japan's highest literary honor. Narrated in the first person in Pramoedya's signature style, *It's Not an All Night Fair* tells the deeply affecting story of a son returning home to central Java to confront the fact of his father's death. Struggling to understand his reticent father, the son embarks on a personal quest to find value and meaning not only in his father's life but also in his own.

<http://www.equinoxpublishing.com/item/its-not-an-all-night-fair>



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).

## 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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