



AIA COMMBANK SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

19 September, 2016

The winners of the 2016/17 Australia Indonesia Association Scholarship Program have been announced and recipients are excitedly preparing to spend their new year in the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta on a 2-week intensive language program.

This year the AIA have been able to award scholarships to three outstanding scholars of secondary Indonesian language studies in NSW, thanks to the generous support of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and the Australia-Indonesia Institute.

The three winners of the AIA Commbank 2016/17 Scholarship are:

Ciaran Gilling – Chatswood High School / Open High School, Year 11: A keen soccer player with a passion for helping new arrivals to Australia feel welcome in his role as International Liaison Captain at Chatswood High School, Ciaran Gilling is eager to learn more about Indonesia during his time on the AIA Scholarship. As the only student of Bahasa Indonesia at his school Ciaran studies by correspondence with Open High School.

Evie Knight - Woollooware High School, Year 11: Evie has been studying Bahasa Indonesia at a secondary level since year 7 and aims to continue studying the language at Tertiary level in combination with a degree in law and international studies. She has represented her school at a leadership seminar where she had the opportunity to work with students from across NSW to think of ways to overcome racial discrimination and isolation.

Taneesha Saward - St John the Evangelist Catholic High School, Year 11: As team leader of the Indigenous Dance Group at her school, Taneesha has extensive experience as a cultural ambassador in the arts and is keen to share her passion and knowledge of indigenous Australian culture with the people she meets during her time on the AIA Scholarship in Indonesia.

This group of outstanding high school students represent the fourth cohort of recipients of the AIA Commbank supported since conception by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, with the Australia Indonesia Institute coming on board with this unique initiative in 2016.

A total of eight scholarships have now been awarded through this program that aims to support and encourage students who are committed to the study of Bahasa Indonesia. The scholarship covers return air travel and related costs as well as a two-week homestay program and intensive language course in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The course is run through AIA Victoria's IndoAustay program.

"It's a great honour to support the AIA Commbank Scholarship. The Commonwealth Bank employs over 2,000 people in Indonesia and we recognize the immense value of Indonesia literacy," Lauren Sulistiawati, President Director of Commonwealth Bank Indonesia, said.

The All Chair, Associate Professor Greg Fealy, noted the importance grants such as these played in strengthening people-to-people links between Australia and Indonesia. "As neighbours and strategic partners, the work of the All and its grantees fulfils an important role in updating perceptions and understanding between the people of both countries," Fealy said.

The AIA of NSW established the scholarship to stimulate Indonesian language learning at high school and beyond. "Despite the downturn in the numbers studying Indonesian at high school, it is

incredibly encouraging to see the high calibre and enthusiasm of the students and their teachers,”
Melanie Morrison, from the AIA Education Committee, said.

Many outstanding applications are received every year and unfortunately the number of scholarships that can be awarded is limited. If you or an organization you know of would like to discuss sponsorship of a scholarship in 2017/18 you can contact the Australia Indonesian Association.

The Australia Indonesia Association of NSW (AIA) is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation established in 1945 to encourage cultural exchange and to promote friendship and understanding between Australians and Indonesians.

The Australia-Indonesia Institute (All) was established by the Australian Government in 1989 to contribute to a more broadly based and enduring relationship between Australia and Indonesia and to project positive images of Australia and Indonesia in each other's country.

The AIA thanks our sponsors:



CommonwealthBank



For more information:

Melanie Morrison
Education Committee, AIA NSW
T: 0401 996 451
E: volunteers@australia-indonesia-association.com

Eleanor River-Suharno
Education Committee, AIA NSW
T: 0412641 980
E: eleanor.suharno@gmail.com