



# KABAR

## AIA News

### Australia Indonesia Association

July – September 2014

*Established in 1945*

Hi Everyone,

Here we are in winter again, with the solstice a few days ago, so now we can look forward to longer days. Here in Sydney it has been a fairly mild winter so far with unusually warm weather throughout May.

On the political scene, the government-to-government relationship seems to be warming up too, with the recent meeting between our PM Tony Abbott and Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the return of Indonesia's Ambassador Pak Nadjib Riphath Kesoema to Canberra. Still no news, however, on appointment of a new Indonesian Consul General for Sydney. Meanwhile Nicholas Manoppo is doing an excellent job as Acting Consul General.

The Indonesian parliamentary elections in April went smoothly and we are now coming up to the Presidential elections in a few weeks, with two contenders, Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and Prabowo Subianto.

No one party reached the threshold alone in the 2014 legislative elections; as a result two coalitions were formed. The coalition to support Prabowo/Hatta includes Gerindra, PPP, PKS, Golkar and PAN. The coalition to support Joko/Kalla includes PDI-P, NasDem and Hanura.

Australian politics has been dominated by the Budget delivered in May and the implications on various sectors of the community. I attended a function for the New Colombo Plan at the University of Sydney recently, where students protested strongly against the Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. The New Colombo Plan is the reverse of the old plan, seeing Australian students going overseas to study in Asian countries.

Business and people to people relationships continue to flourish. Suryo Sulisto, the Chairman of KADIN, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce recently did a roadshow of Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney, promoting increased trade and business between our countries.

The National Gallery of Australia in Canberra has held a photographic exhibition of photos taken in Indonesia

from the mid 1800's through to the 1960's - fascinating photos of all aspects of life during those years. Another exhibition at the NGA is the *Bali – Island of the Gods* exhibition, which was officially opened by Tony Abbott last week. Sisca Hunt also participated in the Balinese dancing.



Ambassador and Ibu Najib and Eric and Ike de Haas

Also in Canberra, the AIA ACT held their annual Winter Dinner that was well attended. The Indonesian Ambassador Pak Nadjib attended, and acknowledged the AIA NSW members attending. It was a good opportunity to speak with him about the various activities we are undertaking in NSW.

Our AIA educational activities are now swinging into gear, thanks to some tremendous efforts from Miriam Tulevski and our Education subcommittee. The AIA Commbank Scholarship is into its second year, and this year has expanded to 2 students to attend a 2 week immersion course in Yogyakarta next January. The immersion courses are arranged by the AIA in Victoria.

We also have the third year of our "Lottie Maramis" Scholarship for a Year 12 student going on to study Indonesian at University.

For many years we have been sponsoring the “Kompetisi Siswa” organized by the NSW Education Department. It’s all part of our effort to promote Indonesian studies at NSW schools and universities.

This year, we are embarking on a program of annual awards to recognise and honour Australians who have made significant contributions to the greater understanding and friendship between Indonesians and Australians.

The Australia Indonesia Awards this year will be made in three (3) categories

- Media – journalism, film, documentary, social media
- Education – schools, tertiary, institutions
- Arts – Music, dance, painting, literature

An independent selection panel has been established, chaired by Mr Bill Farmer AO, the former Ambassador

to Indonesia, and comprises 5 independent persons well respected within their fields and have an understanding of the existing relationships between Australians and Indonesians. We will shortly be officially launching this Australia Indonesia Awards program so stay tuned for more details.

Welcome to our new member Ferry Ie who we met at our May dinner at Pondok Restaurant in Parramatta. We trialed our new online booking system for this event, and it worked very well.

Our AIA Facebook group is growing steadily with now over 700 members and daily applications to join. [Check it out](#)

## PEMILU 2014

New polling data on Indonesia’s Presidential election suggests that presidential candidate Joko Widodo’s 38 point lead three months ago has evaporated. He and former military commander Prabowo Subianto may be locked in a dead heat. This Lowy Interpreter article looks at why voters are moving en masse to support Prabowo and who is actually behind the polling data.

<http://www.lowyinterpreter.org/post/2014/06/24/Indonesian-election-Prabowo-now-favourite-to-win.aspx>

## Indonesia on the knife’s edge

By Edward Aspinall

The first part of this article appears with the permission of ANU’s Edward Aspinall and *Inside Story*.



Indonesia’s presidential election on 9 July will determine not only the future government of the country but also the fate of its democracy. Over the past decade and a half, Indonesia has been the democratic success story of Southeast Asia. Thailand has lurched back to its tradition of military coups, and Malaysia and Singapore have languished under semi-democratic regimes, but Indonesian democracy looked like it was striking deep roots. Nobody would claim that the country didn’t have serious political problems – chief among them, pervasive corruption – but its many achievements include the evolution of a robust media, the sidelining of the military from daily political life, a strong culture of open electoral competition, and significant devolution of power and finances to the regions.

Now, the country faces a stark choice that could determine not only the health of Indonesian democracy, but perhaps even whether it survives. The two candidates running in this election embody very different aspects of Indonesia’s recent political history, and they promise to take the country in very different directions.

The leading candidate is Joko Widodo (usually known as Jokowi). Politically, he is purely a product of the new democratic era. A political nobody at the beginning of Indonesia’s democratic transformation, he came to prominence by being elected twice as the mayor of the Central Java city of Solo and then once as governor of Jakarta – a pathway to national power that would have been impossible under the old authoritarian system. Known for a low-key, meet-the-people style of interacting with constituents, he comes from a humble background, though he achieved success as a furniture exporter prior to entering politics. His style of governing emphasises bureaucratic reform, improved service delivery, expanded social welfare services and a consensus-based approach to resolving social conflict.

Though we don't really know Jokowi's views on many critical issues (such as how to resolve the conflict in Papua), he would be the first president without firsthand experience of official politics in the authoritarian period and, arguably, the most reformist president yet. While we would not expect dramatic change under his leadership, he would pay patient attention to strengthening Indonesia's democratic institutions and getting the wheels of Indonesia's massive bureaucracy turning more smoothly, and more cleanly.

Prabowo Subianto, Jokowi's only rival in a two-candidate race, has promised to respect Indonesia's democracy. But there is much in his personal history, his rhetoric, and his political style to suggest that a Prabowo presidency would pose a significant threat of authoritarian reversal. In contrast to Jokowi, Prabowo is one of the purest imaginable products of the authoritarian New Order regime (1966–98) of President Suharto. One of a handful of leading military generals by the time of Suharto's fall from office, he was the son of an important early New Order economics minister and was married to Suharto's daughter, Titiek. Prabowo's younger brother, Hashim Djojohadikusumo, like many of the children of former New Order officials, went into business, while Prabowo was groomed for a career in the army. Hashim is now one of Indonesia's richest men, as well the chief bankroller of Prabowo's presidential ambitions.

Back in the 1980s and 1990s, Prabowo enjoyed an unusually rapid rise through the ranks of the army under the patronage of his father-in-law. In the mid to late 1990s, when the New Order began to fray and civilian reformers tried to work out who in the army might be sympathetic to democratic change, nobody counted Prabowo among the potential reformers. Instead, he was a leader of the palace guard and, in the final months of the regime, was in charge of a dirty war-style campaign to abduct anti-government activists, several of whom remain missing to this day. President Habibie dismissed Prabowo as commander of the Army's Strategic Reserves the day after Suharto resigned, 22 May 1998, when it was reported to him that Prabowo was moving his troops close to the presidential palace without the approval of the Armed Forces Commander. Prabowo was discharged from the military for his role in the kidnapping of the activists and for other transgressions.

### Political career

Since the early 2000s, after a period abroad, Prabowo has worked hard to build a political career. From the start he focused on the goal of winning the presidency. He first tried to win the nomination of Golkar (the electoral vehicle of the old New Order regime) as its presidential candidate in 2004. When this plan failed, he decided to form his own personal vehicle, the Gerindra (Greater Indonesia Movement) party, an organisation with the sole goal of taking its leader to the presidential palace. In 2009, he ran as a vice-presidential candidate alongside Megawati Sukarnoputri, but at that time, too, he made it clear that his

ultimate goal was the presidency. Although Gerindra achieved just 11.8 per cent of the popular vote in this year's legislative election, Prabowo was the only other potential presidential candidate who came even close to Jokowi in the public opinion polls. He was eventually able to pull together a coalition of five major parties to nominate him as its presidential candidate.

A year ago, it seemed that Jokowi would win the presidency without serious challenge. He was a media sensation, and his popularity ratings far outstripped other potential candidates. In the last six months, however, Prabowo's campaign has surged. Though Jokowi still maintains a lead it has narrowed dramatically, and is now in single figures. Nobody now takes a Jokowi victory for granted. In such a context, we need to think seriously about what underpins Prabowo's growing appeal, and what a Prabowo presidency might mean for Indonesia.

### The Prabowo challenge

How can we explain the rapid rise in support for Prabowo? One explanation is that Jokowi's campaign has been poorly organised, as has been argued persuasively by ANU academic Marcus Mietzner. Prabowo's effort, by contrast, has been single-minded and massively funded from the start. His brother Hashim has pumped in untold millions and, since his polling has improved, Prabowo has also been able to extract major funds from other Indonesian oligarchs and political allies. He has also gained the support of two of Indonesia's main media tycoons, whose television channels have flagrantly campaigned in favour of him: Prabowo even appeared at the final of *Indonesian Idol* to award the prize to the winner. (To be fair, the news channel owned by another tycoon, Surya Paloh, has been almost equally biased in favour of Jokowi.) An army of paid social media workers floods the cyberworld with pro-Prabowo material and counter negative stories about him; the electronic media has for many months been similarly flooded with advertisements extolling his virtues.

It is also increasingly obvious that elements of Prabowo's styling and message appeal strongly to a part of the Indonesian population. Prabowo has presented himself in a way that distinguishes him starkly from other members of Indonesia's political elite. Part of this is visual: Prabowo's campaign rallies involve a large element of pageantry, with marching bands and military-style parades; he dresses himself in uniforms that evoke Sukarno and other nationalist heroes from the 1940s and 1950s; he even uses old-fashioned microphones that look like those used decades ago by Sukarno. In addition to these stylistic elements, however, there are at least three features that distinguish Prabowo from other mainstream Indonesian politicians.

First is the nature of his message. Prabowo promotes an amalgam of nationalist and populist themes reminiscent of demagogic politicians the world over. In all his campaign speeches he stresses, first and foremost, nationalism, saying that Indonesia is a country of great natural riches

that has for too long been exploited – even enslaved – by foreigners. Indonesia’s riches are being sucked out to benefit outsiders and it is time, he says, for the country to stand on its own feet and reclaim its dignity and self-respect. He also talks at length about the plight of the poor, and how they suffer as a result of corruption, neoliberalism, neocapitalism, foreign interference and various other ills. Indonesia’s riches are stolen from the Indonesian people; it is time for them to be reclaimed and enjoyed by all Indonesian.

Nothing in this so far is particularly unusual: economic nationalism, concern for the plight of the “little people” and condemnation of corruption are all standard tropes of Indonesian political discourse. But Prabowo’s language is far more dramatic than that used by most politicians. What is even more unusual is that he presents these critiques along with fiery condemnation of Indonesia’s entire political class, which he depicts as irredeemably corrupt and self-serving. As he told a crowd of workers at a rally last May Day: “The Indonesian elite has lied for too long... lied to the people, lied to the nation, lied to itself!” Later in the same speech, he added, “All are corrupted! All are bribed! All our leaders are willing to be bought and willing to be bribed!”

Or, as he put it more recently, on a visit to Aceh province: “How easy it is to control Indonesia. All you need to do is buy the political parties!” Of course there is a deep irony here: Prabowo is himself a product of the very highest level of Indonesia’s political elite, and a major oligarch in his own right. Yet there’s no denying the consistency, and the force, of his message.

This leads us to a second part of Prabowo’s appeal: the passion, even sometimes fury, with which he delivers his message. This also distinguishes him from most mainstream politicians – especially the current president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who is so careful and measured in his statements that he is often criticised for indecisiveness, but also Jokowi, whose personal style is unusually casual and low-key. This particular strength is potentially also a weak point.

The third element of Prabowo’s appeal is the promised antidote to all these ills: leadership that is “firm” or “strong.” Indeed, we might think of the promise of strong leadership as not merely the central, but as virtually the *only* significant plank of Prabowo’s political program and his strategy for government. In a recent analysis, University of British Columbia historian John Roosa has compellingly argued that “in Prabowo’s mind, everything about a country – the quality of its economic system, culture, and international standing – depends on the ‘leadership factor.’ The solution for all of Indonesia’s ills is a ‘strong national leadership.’” Accordingly, Prabowo’s speeches are self-referential and self-regarding to an extent that is unusual in Indonesian politics, and he often teasingly asks his audience whether he is being “too tough” or “too hard” in his denunciations.

In many casual conversations I have had with ordinary Indonesians over recent months, almost all those who say they will support Prabowo repeat the same refrain: Indonesia needs a leader who is tough, who will stamp down on corruption, who will stand up to foreign countries, who will prevent the repeat of “losses” such as East Timor, and so on. Public opinion polling also shows that voters who value firm leadership as a factor in making their choice overwhelmingly favour Prabowo.

Prabowo is directing his campaign for the presidency through democratic channels. Recently, he has taken pains to state that he accepts Indonesia’s democratic system, and that he intends to preserve it. If he takes power, he will do so with the support of a coalition of political parties that have an interest in preserving democratic participation. He will also be operating in a system that includes robust checks and balances, as well as a strong media and civil society. Why, then, should we be concerned about the implications of a Prabowo presidency for Indonesian democracy?

The obvious reason is Prabowo’s authoritarian. Much of the criticism from Indonesian civil society groups has focused on this aspect, and Prabowo became angry in last week’s televised debate when Jokowi’s running mate, Jusuf Kalla, tried to goad him on the issue.

Another source of concern is the hints at explicitly anti-democratic elements in Prabowo’s program. He has repeatedly stated, for instance, that he wants to return Indonesia to the “original” 1945 Constitution, as it was signed in 18 August 1945. In other words, he wants to return to a version of the Constitution that places concentrated power in the hands of the president and removes virtually all the key democratic procedures and controls found in contemporary Indonesian democracy, most of which have been introduced by a series of constitutional amendments since 1998.

Prabowo frequently drops hints, too, that democracy itself, or at least the version that is practised in Indonesia, is a chief source of corruption and various other ills. In last week’s televised debate he talked about “destructive” democracy and stated he wanted to create a “constructive” democracy instead. Of course, a Prabowo government would not be a carbon copy of Suharto’s New Order; Indonesia has changed a great deal since those days and there would be much resistance to any authoritarian reversal.

To read a full version of this article go to:  
<http://inside.org.au/indonesia-on-the-knifes-edge/>

*Edward Aspinall is an Australian Research Council Future Fellow and researches Indonesian politics at the Australian National University.*

## A letter from Indonesia

By Rama and Fahny from Kendari, Sulawesi

My name is Rama but my full name is Ramadhan Sabara. I'm writing this letter with the help of Fahny, whose full name is Fanny Fan Surya, and Mathew O'Connor. Fahny and I are students at SMKN3 Kendari Indonesia. SMKN stands for *sekolah menengah kejuruan negeri* - which means vocational high school. We are taught hotel management, beauty, fashion and catering. I study in the hospitality department with Fahny.

We live in the city of Kendari in South East Sulawesi. Kendari is a young, growing city - only just 51 years old. Most of the people who live in Kendari belong to the Bugis, Buton, Tolaki, Muna or Wakatobi tribes. That means that there are a lot of languages in Kendari - so we all speak Bahasa Indonesia, and many of us can speak another language as well. Fahny and I can also speak English!

Kendari is a place with a rich culture of art and tradition. Some of these traditions include the Lulo dance, which is a group dance done to traditional music. Most outsiders are surprised when they eat our traditional food! It is called *sinonggi* - you could describe it as like sago, so it is sticky, stretchy and chewy. It's a bit like jelly, and its really delicious! But it looks a bit strange.

In SMKN3, there are 600 students. For the last seven months we have hosted a volunteer from they AYAD (Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development) program. His name is Mathew O'Connor\* and he works as an English Teacher Trainer. Sometimes, he also helps the students with special English classes, and other classes like debating.

SMKN3 has had another teacher called Miss Nurwati, who studied near Perth in Australia. She has excellent English and loves to teach her class about Australian life.

I don't study English in any special schools outside of class. Instead I read English books and always watch English shows on television. I also listen to music in English, always practice my language by singing karaoke in English. Right now my favorite artist is Westlife! Fahny says her favorite artist is Justin Bieber.

Fahny also practices English at home with books, movies and music. She also goes to a volunteer class outside of school. Fahny goes to a school called Fast English, where her teachers name is Mister Mark and she practices English there.

Myself, Fahny and one more student named Wahyu participated in a debate competition (in English) in Kendari in November.



Rama, Fahny, Wahyu & Ruslin

We didn't have much time to prepare for the debate - we had less than one week. So, after class we joined Mathew and another teacher from SMK3 named Ruslin in a coffee shop in Kendari to practice debating.

Sometimes we stayed for nine hours! We practiced by reading and talking about the motions of other debates. Some of them included banning child performances, or privatizing prison, migration of people in Indonesia between rural and city areas, and young people volunteering.

Debate class was very different to the normal classes we have at SMK3. We learned about things like critical thinking, which is about giving and understanding different arguments. Debate classes also have more speaking than listening, which is different to normal classes at school where there is more listening than speaking. Also, with debate classes, you use your imagination more. You can be creative with your thinking and also creative with the language.

We started the competition in the first week of November. Our first motion was against students from SMKN Kesehatan - Kesehatan means "health" in bahasa Indonesia. The first debate was very, very close, and unfortunately we lost that one. We still felt shy!

We won our next debate easily. The motion for that debate was about privatising prisons. Mathew noticed that our debating style was much different to the style of the other team. They spoke well, but they had already written their material, and just came to the debate to speak it. It was difficult to tell if they really understood their material at all, and when we tried to ask them questions (called P.O.I. - point of information) they

wouldn't respond.

I received the highest single student score from the whole debate competition - 73 out of a possible 75! I got this score from a judge called Simon, who is another Australian volunteer who works at a different school in Kendari. This high score also included all of the selective academic schools in Kendari - which meant that I was the best debater in town! Simon later explained to Mathew that I got the single highest score because I understood the material and I could respond to criticism about my argument with an intelligent response.

The final debate was against SMK4, and the judges changed the motion at the last minute. That means we were doing a debate we didn't know against a team with prepared material! Some of the students from our school came to support us, and the crowd was huge! The judges included teachers from Australia and the USA, as well as the leader of the areas schools. It was pretty intimidating!

The final debate made me so nervous, because there were so many people watching our team. It made arguing very difficult. Unfortunately, we lost that final debate. We were so sad about losing, but then we were so surprised that Fahny was nominated for best speaker in the grand final! She didn't think it was possible, but she was still so happy that she cried! It was our first experience in a competition like this.

Later on we all went to karaoke and had a great time. We sang songs from Indonesia and all around the world - Mister Ruslin sang a song called "gereja tua" which

means "the old church". He got 100, even though he is an awful singer! Mathew sang a song from Australia by AC/DC - it was called Highway to Hell.

Fahny and I hope to come to Australia, and we are looking for a school and a family to host us if we are selected by AIYEP (the youth exchange program). We are interested in studying, and living in Australia. We would like to learn about the culture and everything else in Australia. We would like to know more about kangaroos, and koalas, and other Australian animals. We would like to make friends with people from Australia, because the teacher volunteers we meet in Kendari have good characters.

We also would like to know about the culture of Australia. For example, we know that there are different ethnic groups and would love to meet everyone we can.

Thank you for making the time to read our email. If your school or family might be able to help host us, or you have any questions, please email Mathew at [connor.mathew84@gmail.com](mailto:connor.mathew84@gmail.com)

*\*Mathew O'Connor is a 29 year old English teacher from Wollongong NSW. He worked in the non-profit sector in Australia until 2010, and has since been teaching English overseas. He recently volunteered with the Australia Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) program. He completed his first volunteer assignment in Kendari, Sulawesi, in May 2014. His favorite food in Indonesia is Konro, and his favourite band is TipeX.*

## Percakapan

### Australian Expats in Indonesia

By Paul Dudley, AIA Victoria

Interview with Amanda Zsebik owner of the business Indonesian Island Sails and skipper of the Phinisi Al likai. A pinisi or phinisi is a traditional Indonesian two-masted wooden sailing ship.

**Amanda Zsebik is an expat Australian from Sydney. She has just completed the maiden voyage of Al likai, touring around the Indonesian Archipelago.**

**She talks to us about the challenges of running a business in Indonesia and the inspiration it gives her.**



#### **How long have you been living in Indonesia?**

I'm not the typical Australian who has been coming here for years. My first visit was 18 years ago with another single Mum who had free accommodation. I wasn't much interested in Asia. We stayed in East Bali and I fell in love. About 11 years ago, I needed to put down some roots here, and built my first house.

This morphed into a resort, which was not fun - and very hard work, so I sold.

**You're in your 50's. You could have done something a lot less risky than this venture. Why this? What inspired you to do this?**

Ahhh...the Mid-Life-Crisis question.

It must have been irritating a friend and he said in exasperation "God just wants you to be happy." So I set out to find out what made me happy. As a woman/mother/daughter/wife I was programmed to do for others, so this was a challenge. I went on my first cruise, and remembered how much I loved being at sea. Then it was a matter of finding a comfortable 'space' in the world. This ended up being a triangle

between Bali in the West, the east to the Molaccas and north to Raja Ampat. I have no inclination to take tours west to Java or Sumatra, but I do have a client who wants to go to Borneo next September, and I'm working on that.

***Were you just treading water or just couldn't wait to try something new?***

Drowning, not swimming! It was total crisis time. I'm very lucky I have good friends who stuck by me, and supported my decision to buy a boat.

***How much time did it take, from stem to stern, once you decided to buy the old Al likai and what was involved?***

Paul, you should read my blog ([www.indonesianislandsail.com/blog](http://www.indonesianislandsail.com/blog)). I had a dream when I was staying (strangely enough!) at the Al likai boat builder's hotel. 3 times in the night I was woken with voices shouting "Al likai." I was in Bira, and had to make a decision that night to buy a new boat, or look at Al likai. She was way way bigger than I needed. So I flew back to Bali, and went and saw her. She was tired but she had great bones. I looked in the engine room, and it was spotless, so I knew the crew were conscientious and really cared. And then as I was walking around I felt that I had become "one with the boat." That did it. I had to have her!

***Did the amount of work to be done surprise you once you started?***

Not really. I knew she was fundamentally strong, and had good space, and that I just wanted to gut her, and start again. I was very lucky to work with an amazing carpenter who was able to translate my ideas into our reality. I had a plan of the old boat up, and coloured little areas to give people an idea of what went where. Orange was for the crew, pink was for me, yellow was for the toilets. I was told again and again that I could not do it without a naval architect, but in the end it was really easy. There were no nasties in the engine room, I had to overhaul the

engine, and put in everything else new.

***Was there an emotional journey as well? Did it take an emotional toll on you?***

It was very much an emotional journey. I got such joy from each stage. Nothing was too hard but some stages were boring, I'm not good when I have to focus on the details like what type of light switch the boat needs, and where it should go, but these were small and incidental irritants.

***What aspect of you is in the yacht Al Aikai?***

Hahaha - she is a boat to create fun, laughter and provide an amazing view of the world we live in. And to provide a platform so we all (particularly the kids) never take anything for granted. So they see the problems facing us - like the damage that discarded plastic can do to the environment - can only be solved by many of us making a small change. And there's not much to life except living every day to the fullest.

***You've had some good and let's say challenging experiences running a business in Bali. What are your feelings about what's being done to improve the lot of westerners doing business in Indonesia?***

It's pretty crazy here with the elections; everyone is cracking down, and getting what they can, before the rules change again. Indonesia is coming of age, and there are growing pains. For me, the frustration is that not one person can guide you along the correct path. Nobody seems to know. Bali is at tipping point. They have been happy to work with us, selling their land etc. while they made money and were in control. This is changing. There is less power now in regional areas as more and more of Bali is in "overseas" hands. Not just ex-pats, but there has been serious money from other parts of Indonesia and I worry this has diluted the control the Balinese had of their island. Plus it's difficult to employ the Balinese

because they need 60 plus days off a year for ceremonies.

***Was this new venture a resurrection in some way from your past life on the island of Bali?***

Not really. With all the changes and development I'm unsure about Bali now and sadly the Balinese appear to be unaware what's happening, and I think that is where there will be real problems.

***Are there any perils to running a business in Indonesia that inspired entrepreneurs should look out for?***

Yes. I can't begin to list them. Suffice to say, only invest what you can walk away from. And there is a lawlessness now, that wasn't present before. It's like change is happening too quickly, and there is a knee jerk reaction. Having said that, I now have a contact in government who is making this journey easier. I didn't need this 10 years ago when I started building the resort. My contact makes sure that all legal requirements are fulfilled. It's just a pity that you need to engage a government official to work through the paperwork and expedite things when there could be companies available to provide this service.

***You're a rabid east Bali water girl. Has living in Indonesia as an expat become harder or easier over the years? Has your perspective changed?***

It's harder with all the development. I make a point of getting away whenever I can. Most ex-pats who I know who are successful do the same thing. But that's Bali. It's only one island out of more than 18,000. It's very different in other parts of Indonesia, and that's the point of having the boat. To show people there's more to Indonesia than Kuta. I've been saying for years: Indonesia will be a financial powerhouse in the world. Interesting, the World Bank just ranked it as Number 10. It's like some sleeping giant. Indonesia is rapidly outpacing many other Asian

countries. As Australians we need to be mindful of this, and should make good Indonesian/Australian relationships a the primary focus of our foreign policy.

***What is the optimum time of year to travel around the archipelago?***

Between March and November is the East monsoon and best for sailing out of Bali. In December it's good to go north east to Raja Ampat. Parts of the Moluccas have the seasons reversed!

***How do you go about creating a journey for your passengers?***

It's the usual constraints of time and money. People aren't ready to spend money on cruising Indonesia, It's perceived that beyond Bali, there's nothing (except for scuba diving which is an enormous market.) But this is changing. Rapidly. It's good business to be at the pointy end of the wedge. Cruising Indonesia is about to take off. For me, there's a big component of what I want to see as well. It's very hard getting information and often you have to rely on Google earth to assess if an island is worth visiting.

***What's your idea if a great day at sea?***

Sun, wind, and calm seas! I can go

for days. But I need my water fix, so when we are doing a long voyage, just with me on board, I make sure we island hop so I can get a couple of hours in the water seeing what's there.



***Do you prefer sunrise or sunset?***

Sunrise. The stillness. At sunset everyone is tired and hungry after a day at sea.

***What's the most fun; Snorkeling off... Or eating a fresh sea food catch from say the Gili Islands?***

Snorkeling by far. Every time I get in the water I see something new. It's an amazing experience to do the same thing over and over again, and have a different result each time.

***Do you have any doubts and anxieties now the voyage schedule is filling up?***

Yes, performance anxiety. I just have to let it go, and be real. I also

have to be very careful not to lose the balance between financial obligations, and me finding joy in the process.

***Is this an autobiography or are there other characters perhaps more important?***

My friend is a medium. When we left for our maiden trip she sent an SMS. I didn't receive it until later. It read;

"A – what are you doing? You father is here. He's saying:  
She's got wind in her hair (snort)  
Joy in her heart  
My darling girl  
I love her so."

If wasn't for the snort (he always did that when he laughed) I would have doubted this was genuine. Dad has been dead for almost 20 years. So, yes there is someone else on this journey who's important.

***What interests you about Indonesia at the moment?***

OMG the rapid change! And the rapid rapid financial growth! It's mind blowing. It's like watching a teenager suddenly become an adult. Overnight. And it's at every level of society. It's fascinating to watch. And quite scary.

Thanks Amanda.  
www.indonesianislandsail.com

## EVENTS

**13 June – 3 August: Bali, Islands of the Gods, National Gallery of Australia**

The arts of the Indonesian island of Bali have captured and charmed visitors for centuries. The only large and vibrant Hindu community surviving outside India, Bali epitomises the colourful and creative impulses associated with the rich cycle of Hindu festivals, communal celebrations and daily domestic worship. The wide range of works—sculpture, textiles, paintings, architectural elements and ritual objects—in the Gallery's forthcoming exhibition of Balinese art will excite and surprise visitors, even those who have journeyed to the exotic island.

More information: <http://www.nga.gov.au/Bali/Default.cfm>

**1-5 October 2014, Ubud Writers' Festival**

After a wonderful 10-year anniversary celebration, the Ubud Writers & Readers Festival sets its sights on 2014 and looks forward to the 11th Ubud Writers & Readers Festival, **October 1–5, 2014**.

Held annually in Ubud, Bali's artistic and cultural heartland, the UWRF has become South East Asia's largest and most renowned cultural and literary festival.

In 2014 the UWRF will honor Saraswati, the Hindu patron goddess of learning, with the theme 'Wisdom & Knowledge'.

More information: <http://www.ubudwritersfestival.com/>



## History files: AIA in the 1960s

By Neil Smith

My research of the AIA in the 1960s was hampered with lack of information found in the AIA archives at the State Library. So this is what I could find to give an idea of the association during the 1960s..

In 1961 the AIA ran the first Indonesian language course at Sydney Technical College, Broadway Sydney (TAFE). The course seemed to be successful for the college as the course was continued the following year. In May 1961 clothing was donated in conjunction with the PPI (Indonesian Student Association) to raise money for the victims of a volcanic eruption in Bali in 1961. In the middle of the same year, the AIA entertained 69 Indonesian naval cadets from the sailing ship the *Dewa Rutji*.

In March of the same year, there was the first of the Summer School. A group of Indonesian enthusiasts, gathered for a weekend of language studies, group discussions plus the viewing of films. The group cooked Indonesian food. The first Summer School was held at Newport and guest speaker was Sir Richard Kirby - well known for his role in the diplomacy of the Indonesian Independence movement period. Also, in 1961, the AIA membership was one pound.



An AIA ski trip

The following year the Summer School was held at the Methodist Youth Centre, Elanora Heights. In 1962 a 13 page periodical was started named the Bulletin. It was also in 1962 that the AIA in conjunction with the PPI held the first independence celebration at Randwick Town Hall.

In June 1963 the AIA played a part in the transfer for the Komodo dragon to Taronga Zoo. General Nasution, one of Indonesia's national heroes, donated the animal. There were also notes about bushwalks and other outings as well as a function for Mr Supeno of the Indonesian trade union movement. Again, the AIA raised money and collected clothing for another natural disaster that occurred in Bali, which was transferred to Indonesia via the Indonesian Consulate.

In 1964 the AIA entertained 50 Indonesian naval officers in various members' homes. The Summer School of 64 was held at Yarramundi in Sydney's west from 23 - 24 March.

Then in 1965 membership was four pounds and 150 members. That year we had a welcome dinner for the new Ambassador Lt Gen. Kosasih. Also in 1964 a welcome trip was organised to the Snowy Mountains at a cost of 5 pounds per head. There was another joint function between the AIA and the PPI for the Independence Day held at the Indonesian Consul General's home in Rose Bay with around 300 attending. 1966 saw a number of joint functions with the PPI including the summer school and dinners and independence day celebrations at Randwick Town Hall with about 400 attending. Also in that year money was raised for flood relief in Java. Membership stood at 138.

The last summers school was held in April 1967 because lack of interest. A bus trip with the PPI members was organised to Galston Gorge. The Bulletin was circulated in the AIA members in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania now. And a Christmas Dinner was held in the Java Restaurant in Randwick, where some AIA dinners are still organised.

In the middle of 1968 the AIA lost our President Seymour Shaw, who passed away after a short illness. The new President Professor Alywood along with the committee formed the Seymour Shaw Memorial Fund. They started the fund with \$300 raised through dinners and donations. An informal dinner party was held at the Consulate residence, Rose Bay.

The first event in 1969 was a bus trip to Cobbitty. In April 1969 the AIA held a reception with Adam Malik, Indonesian Foreign Minister in Sydney. An old member and friend of the AIA Pak Soemaryono held a Wayang Kulit demonstration for the AIA. The membership in 69 was 170.

A fundraising dinner was run for the Seymour Shaw fund with Mr J Verco, Director General of the Department of Education, as guest speaker. In June of 1969 members and friends organised a bush walk to the Royal National Park. There were also a group discussion in June about Indonesian politics and art.

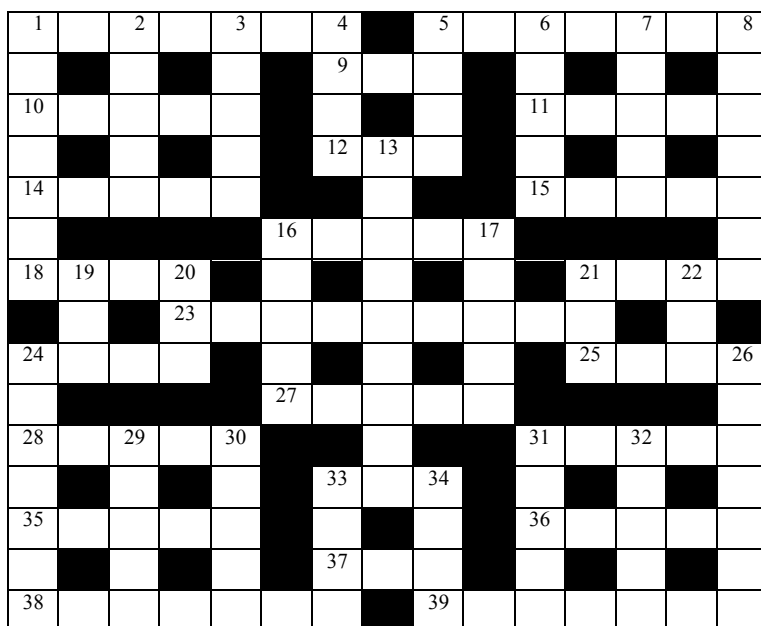
### FOCUS ON BOOKS

**Please go to the Equinox Publishing website.**

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).

## CROSSWORD

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



Across	Down
1. South	1. After
5. Beach, coastal area	2. Soil, stain
9. 100 square meters	3. Land
10. Garden, park	4. Name
11. Right	5. Map
12. What	6. Head wind ( <i>angin -----</i> )
14. Ravi ne, gully	7. The Sunda area (West Java)
15. Empty, vacant	8. Withered, leafless
16. West	13. Level
18. Direction	16. Big
21. Above	17. Descend
23. School of Koranic studies for children, most of whom are boarders ( <i>Isl.</i> )	19. There is, there are
24. There, yonder	20. What
25. Interior, inland country	21. Whatchumacallit
27. Harmonious	22. Fire
28. Fate	24. Close, near
31. ( <i>Jv.</i> ) West	26. The cosmos
33. For ( <i>Abbr.</i> )	29. Fresh
35. Wish	30. Continent
36. Cranny, nook	31. Small
38. Dry, barren (of land etc.)	32. Straight
39. Pleat	33. Money
	34. Yawn

## Answers

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

**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).

*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 September 24 2014.*

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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**