



AUSTRALIA INDONESIA ASSOCIATION OF NSW

The background of the lower half of the cover is a close-up photograph of the Australian and Indonesian flags. The Australian flag, with its blue field, white stars, and Union Jack canton, is on the right. The Indonesian flag, with its horizontal red and white stripes, is on the left. The two flags are draped together, creating a sense of unity.

**2023
ANNUAL
REPORT**

[www.https://australia-indonesia-association.com/](https://australia-indonesia-association.com/)

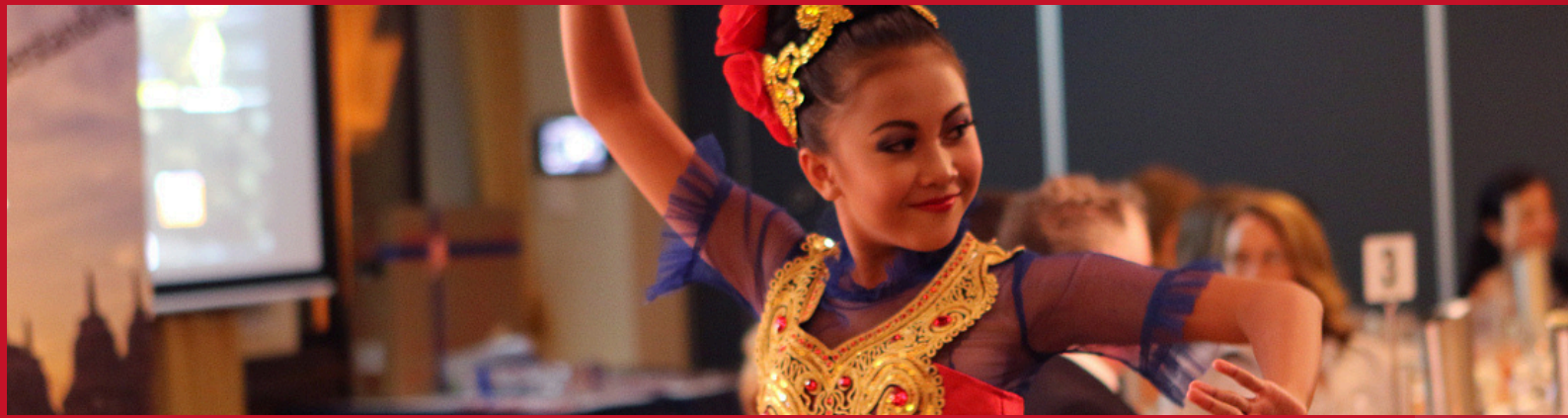


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THE AIA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2023-2024

Once again, I welcome all AIA members to read the 2023 Annual Report for Australia Indonesia Association NSW. This year was full of fun-filled activities, and we were pleased to see many members attend some of these events.

I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work and strong support of the committee to ensure our members attended successful events that promoted the ongoing cultural exchange between peoples of our respective countries.

I am also extremely grateful for the support AIA receives from the Indonesian Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Dr Siswo Pramono, and his team at the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra, and the Indonesian Consul General, Bapak Vedi Buana, and his consuls and staff in Sydney.

I look forward to enjoying another year as your President as we begin preparations to celebrate AIA's 80th Anniversary in 2025.



President Patrick Hanna addressing the AIA 2023 AGM

AIA President 2024



Pat Hanna

The 2023 Annual Report for the Australia Indonesia Association NSW highlights a successful year of engaging events, acknowledges the committee's dedication and the support from the Indonesian Consulate and Embassy, and looks forward to preparations for the AIA's 80th Anniversary in 2025.

AIA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024

President

Pat Hanna



Pat is a geological consultant and has worked for over 40 years in Australia, the USA, Canada, Alaska, South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, India, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, China, Mongolia, Thailand, Japan, Philippines and New Zealand. Pat's first trip to Indonesia was in 1989, and he has worked extensively in the jungles of Kalimantan and Sumatra. In addition, he has travelled through Java and Timur for social activities, including weddings.

Pat is a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) and serves on the Sydney Branch Committee of The AusIMM. He is proudly a registered Competent Person Indonesia (Geology) and is a Member of the Minerals Industry Consultants Association (MMICA).

From 2019 to 2020, Pat served as Vice Chair of the NSW Branch of the Australia Indonesia Business Council (AIBC) and is about to enjoy his third year as President of AIA.

Vice President 1 & Communication and Social Media Coordinator

Romie Sofiati (Sofie)



Sofie is a senior safety advisor with twenty years of experience in the oil & gas industry.

She holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, a Master of Occupational, Health and Safety (MOHS) from the University of Indonesia (UI), and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), Australia.

She guides enterprises on their safety management journey. Sofie consults Australian small-medium enterprises to set up professional safety processes. She also helps Indonesian companies wishing to extend in Australia with the local Australian safety-related regulations. In addition, she is very active in the Indonesian-Australian business and cultural communities. A particular focus goes on Indonesian women's empowerment and multicultural integration.

Sofie joined the AIA NSW committee in May 2021, has served on the Communication and Marketing Subcommittee and was elected as Vice President in Feb 2022.

Vice President 2 & Jakarta-based Representative

Isla Winarto



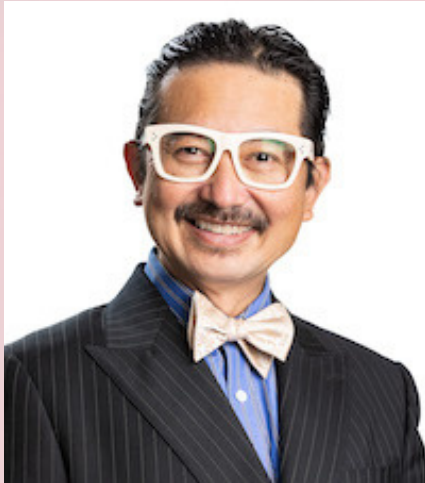
Isla Winarto is a Eurasian with an Australian mother and Indonesian father who was one of the founding members of the AIA in Sydney in 1945. Born and raised in Sydney, for the past 38 years, Isla has lived and worked in Jakarta, Indonesia.

A graduate of the University of Sydney, Isla worked as a Senior Teaching Fellow in Indonesian language and literature at Sydney University and Griffith University, Australia. In Jakarta, Isla worked for USAID American Embassy in Indonesian language training, education and project management. Until her retirement, she was the Country Director of an Australian company in Indonesia, managing ten offices and focusing on international education and aid projects.

In her spare time, Isla is an Advisor to the Board of the Indonesian Heritage Society in Jakarta and the Jakarta representative of the Australia Indonesia Association of NSW. Currently, she is also the UN Liaison Officer for the Jakarta chapter of Soroptimist International, a global organisation advancing the status of women. Through Soroptimist International, Isla has managed major donor-funded projects in Indonesia, mainly Aceh, Palu and Lombok.

Treasurer

Steve Khouw



Steve was born in Jakarta, Indonesia, of Chinese ancestry, and is a grateful Aussie migrant. His entire life revolves around the practicality of engineering in the discipline of mining, building and sustainability. Steve has a background in entrepreneurship and established many business ventures in Australia and pan-Asia centred in Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai.

His current passion is in politics, driven by the many contemporary social justice issues such as environmental stewardship, men's health and well-being, focusing on preventing male suicide, combating racism and multicultural advocacy to name a few.

Steve is a Committee and Board member for a diversity of NGOs, such as the Chinese Australian Forum, Delivery Riders Association and more. He loves adventure activities, from remote bushwalking to canyoning, kayaking, rock climbing and caving.

Committee Member & Events Coordinator

Eric de Haas



Eric is a former Chartered Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor. After working in the accounting profession in Australia and the Netherlands, he moved to Indonesia in 1980 before diversifying to mining consultancy in Indonesia for almost ten years. He worked with Price Waterhouse Consultants in Indonesia for two years. He then spent four years as Corporate Internal Auditor for PT Bakrie and Brothers, a prominent Indonesian public company with diverse interests.

Since his return to Australia in 1998, Eric has continued to work in the Internal Audit and Risk Management area and has maintained his interest in Indonesia, completing three terms as National President of the Australia Indonesia Business Council (AIBC). Eric was then President of the Australia-Indonesia Association for ten years.

Whilst living in Indonesia, Eric was active in the Jakarta Youth Soccer organization, firstly as a Coach, then as a Commissioner and finally as Chief Commissioner. In addition, he was on the Board of Governors of the Institute of Internal Auditors. Here in Sydney, Eric was a director of the Institute of Internal Auditors and is the Director and Company Secretary of the Juliana Village, a retirement and aged care facility in Miranda.

Committee Member & History Coordinator

Neil Smith



Neil Smith has run his own construction company for over 30 years. His interest in Indonesia started in 1983, travelling through Indonesia as a tourist, where he met his Indonesian wife in Yogyakarta.

He has been involved with the Australia-Indonesia Association since joining in 1985. He became Vice President in 1986 and then-President the following year. He has served several terms as President and Vice President and is the current President of AIA. In addition, Neil has advised several organisations, including the Department of Education's Asian Studies Advisory Panel and the NSW Ethnic Affairs' Asian Panel.

He is particularly interested in history, including the history of Australian Indonesian relations and the local history of the Parramatta and Blacktown areas. He has been active within the Parramatta Historical Society for many years, Vice President of the Blacktown and District Historical Society for 15 years, and President for the last two years.

Committee Member

Geoffrey Gold



Geoffrey Gold is a communications adviser and market analyst and facilitator covering Southeast East Asia and Australia. He currently chairs Gold Communications. His media background includes book authoring (such a 'Eureka: Rebellion beneath the Southern Cross' and 'Asian Media Survey: English-language daily newspapers'), radio programming on commercial stations and Radio Australia, publishing a wide range of books in Australia and Indonesia -the latter featuring the 'Directory of Australian Businesses in Indonesia' between 1997-2002 and the Masindo series of bilingual civil society directories and industry guides – and publishing and editing Australian newspapers (Nation Review) and a variety of business magazines.

In the minerals sector he established the Australian Journal of Mining, now AsiaPacific Journal of Mining, in 1986, and the Austrade-partnered Indonesian Minerals Exploration and Mining Directory in 1999. During his residency in Indonesia his sector connections extended to advising the Association of Indonesian Provincial Departments of Energy & Minerals Resources and cofounding Ausmincham and EMD Indonesia in Jakarta. He is currently Chair for minerals, energy and industry at the Australia Indonesia Business Council.

He has a long connection with bilateral sports with a focus on sub-national and community activities and chaired the Australian Sports Group in Jakarta to promote volunteerism and people-to-people connectivity. He has facilitated two-way sports programs and tournaments for Soccer, Basketball, Aussie Rules and Bridge and chaired the International Forum on Sports Innovation in Jakarta alongside the Asian Football Confederations' Asian Cup finals. He is currently Ambassador to Australia for AFL Indonesia.

President's Report

Introduction

Once again, I have the pleasure of presenting a summary of the Australia Indonesia Association's year of events. I am grateful for the hard work and strong support of the committee, which ensured our members attended successful events that promoted ongoing cultural exchange between peoples of our respective countries. Additionally, I am also extremely grateful for the support AIA receives from the Indonesian Consulate consuls and staff (headed by Consul General Bapak Vedi Buana), and the Indonesian Embassy consuls headed by His Excellency Dr. Siswo Pramono.

Our success can once again be measured by our membership numbers which grew from 123 to 144 in 2023. Many thanks also to AIA committee members who have been engaged in the membership drive.

As time goes on, things change, and I wish to announce that several of our beloved committee members will be stepping down from the committee in 2024:

- Sri May, our excellent Treasurer
- Sisca Haskew, our cultural affairs guru
- Megan Lavender, our reliable advisor
- Michael Kramer, AIA Secretary and education subcommittee chair
- Graham Ireland, who assisted with our media communications.

I wish to express my gratitude to these fine people who voluntarily offered their time to help run the AIA.

Following is a brief outline of some of the AIA events in 2023 as well as some of the activities the committee has been busily working on.

In 2023, the Australia Indonesia Association experienced a successful year of events, supported by the dedicated committee, Indonesian Consulate and Embassy, and a growing membership, while also announcing the upcoming departure of several key committee members, and providing an overview of the year's activities.

Indonesia Independence Celebration

AIA celebrated Indonesia's 78th Independence Day by partaking in and contributing to the Independence Day Bazaar held at Croydon Park on Saturday 19 August. The bazaar was organised by a joint effort of several local Indonesian associations including:

- KJRI : Indonesian Consulate in Sydney
- ICC : Indonesian Community Council
- IDN : Indonesian Diaspora Network
- ITPC : Indonesia Trade and Promotion Centre
- IIPC : Indonesia Investment Promotion Centre
- IRA : Indonesian Restaurant Association
- Rocks : The Rock Indonesian Community

The event was a great success with about 2,000 people attending the bazaar throughout the day. The AIA committee provided six volunteers on the day, and I wish to thank them for giving up their valuable weekend time to represent AIA at the various stalls. AIA also provided our two becaks, which were very popular with older Indonesians who could remember them and wanted a photo with their children, many of whom had never seen a becak before.



Certificate of appreciation for AIA's Support

AIA celebrated Indonesia's 78th Independence Day by participating in and supporting the successful Independence Day Bazaar at Croydon Park on 19 August, contributing volunteers and showcasing two becaks, which were a hit with attendees, especially those with nostalgic memories of the iconic vehicles.



(L to R) Neil Smith, Romie Sofiati & Pat Hanna



Steve Khouw (Centre)

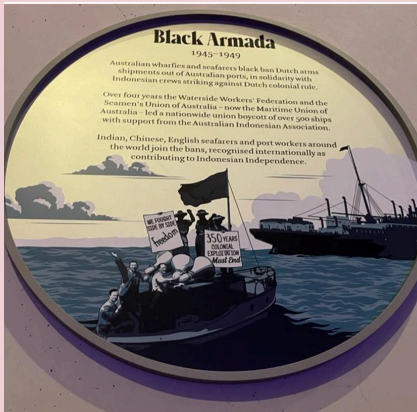
Black Armada Plaque

To commemorate the extraordinary effort of the Waterside Workers Federation (today's Australian Maritime Union, AMU) in imposing black bans on loading Dutch ships in support of Indonesian seamen who refused to reboard the same ships, a Black Armada plaque was ceremoniously unveiled at the Australian National Maritime Museum on 11 October.

Initiated in Sydney in 1945, the Black Armada quickly spread across all Australian ports and then on to the international ports of 15 countries including China, India, and the USA. Taking advantage of the situation, in August 1945, Soekarno declared Indonesia's Independence.

The commemoration ceremony included speeches from the Indonesian Consul-General to Australia, Mr Vedi Kurnia Buana, Professor Heather Goodall from the University of Technology Sydney, Neil Smith, from the Australia Indonesia Association, and Mathias Tambing, President of Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (Indonesian Seafarers Union). AIA contributed \$1,000 to the event's catering which was appreciated by the AMU.

On 11 October, a Black Armada plaque was unveiled at the Australian National Maritime Museum to honor the Waterside Workers Federation's (now AMU) pivotal role in supporting Indonesian seamen during the 1945 Black Armada movement, with speeches from notable figures and a contribution from AIA to the event's catering.



Black Armada Plaque in Australia's National Maritime Museum



Past President, Neil Smith



Consul General, Vedi Buana (3rd from Left) and Neil Smith

Warung Dinners

We have enjoyed three dining experiences together in 2023. The first dinner was of about 25 members and guests at the Sawah Restaurant in Kensington on 13 May. People were well fed and complimenting on the quality of the halal food served.

In winter, we had lunch on the sunny verandah of the Salt & Palm in Glebe on 10 September. About 20 members and guests enjoyed the fine Indonesian food as well as the vibrant conversations on a warm Sunday afternoon.

Finally, due to diplomatic commitments at the last minute, the End-of-Year was relocated from the planned Wisma KJRI to the Sawah Restaurant in Kensington once again. The 25 attendees once again enjoyed the authentic Indonesian cuisine and the intimacy of the gathering.

At each of the dinners and lunches, AIA has invited and enjoyed the company of several Indonesian post-graduates studying at UNSW and USYD. These future young ambassadors of Australia will take back to Indonesia fond memories of their encounters with AIA members who made them feel very welcomed.

In 2023, AIA hosted three successful Warung Dinners, featuring authentic Indonesian cuisine and vibrant conversation at venues such as Sawah Restaurant, Salt & Palm, and a final relocation for the End-of-Year event, while also fostering connections with Indonesian post-graduate students from UNSW and USYD.



AIA members Enjoying Summer Dinner
at The Sawah



Satisfied AIA customers



Winter Warung Lunch at Salt and Palm

Jakarta Members

Once again, I wish to express my utmost gratitude to Isla Winarto, AIA's Vice President and remarkable Jakartan who continues to wave the AIA flag and increase our presence in Indonesia. I had the pleasure of attending one of Isla's famous AIA luncheons held at her wonderful residence and accompanied by many of the local AIA members.

Not only has Isla increased membership in Indonesia and other countries such as Hong Kong, Ireland, and the UK, but she has also sourced many of the fascinating presenters of the Zoom Cocktail sessions held each month.



AIA's President Lunch at Isla's Home



AIA Jakarta members at a luncheon in Isla's residence



Nasi Tumpeng- the Indonesia food dishes

I extend my sincere gratitude to Isla Winarto, AIA's Vice President, for her exceptional efforts in promoting AIA's presence in Indonesia and beyond, organizing successful luncheons and sourcing engaging Zoom Cocktail speakers, while increasing membership in countries including Indonesia, Hong Kong, Ireland, and the UK.

Education – NSW Schools

A full report on the AIA Education Sub-committee provides more details on AIA's activities in this area.

Again, I would like to highlight the effort AIA, together with the Consuls and staff of KJRI, have put into promoting the teaching of Bahasa Indonesia in NSW schools. Sadly though, the number of students in NSW sitting for Indonesian studies at the HSC has dropped yet again to an all-time low of about 70.

Consequently, I have undertaken several meetings with the KJRI and the KBRI to review and re-strategize our efforts to turn around this declining trend.



Auditorium at USY



120 HSC Students at USYD



Indonesia in Action Day at
USYD – AIA's Becak.

AIA, in collaboration with the Consuls and staff of KJRI, has worked diligently to promote Bahasa Indonesia in NSW schools, though the number of students sitting for Indonesian studies at the HSC has reached an all-time low, prompting discussions with KJRI and KBRI to develop new strategies to address this decline.

AIYA – Indonesia in Action Day

A very uplifting event, organised by the Australia Indonesia Youth Association (AIYA) and supported by AIA, was the “Indonesia in Action Day”.

With over 120 students from five high schools across the state in attendance, Indonesia in Action Day was held at the University of Sydney in June to bring a slice of Indonesia to Year 8-12 students. The day's activities included interactive language and cultural activities such as workshops in Randai dance, angklung, pencak silat, Tawar-menawar Balinese temple offering (Sesajen) and careers and university options.

As well, the AIA displayed a becak for the students, and together with AIA's own Australian Survivor, Steve Khouw, provided an excellent photo opportunity for the students, which I'm sure overloaded social media apps. AIA also contributed Indonesian “niknaks” which were distributed in the “show bags” for the students to take home.

The "Indonesia in Action Day," organized by AIYA and supported by AIA, brought together over 120 students for an engaging cultural experience at the University of Sydney, featuring activities like Randai dance and pencak silat, while AIA also contributed by displaying a becak and providing Indonesian "niknaks," and later, AIA helped facilitate a memorable Sydney experience for participants of the 2023 Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP), including a scenic walk around Sydney's landmarks.

AIYEP 2023

The Australia Indonesia Youth Exchange Program (AIYEP) was able to resume its program in 2023, after a long period of no face-to-face contact due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program's success is based on the cultural experience by the youth (aged between 21 to 25) when they spend 3 to 4 weeks in each other's country in homestay-style accommodation. This year, AIYEP requested AIA to spend a day with the Indonesian youth when they arrived in Sydney before departing to Canberra for their homestay.

AIA's Steve Khouw, organised a walk which took the 20 young Indonesians from Luna Park to Wendy's Secret Garden, across the Harbour Bridge, through Circular Quay, ending up at the Botanical Gardens where we enjoyed Nasi Padang Bungkus. It took over 4 hours to complete due to the foto-foto stop every 50m. I believe AIA has given them a Sydney experience they will never forget.



Luna Park Foto



AIYEP Youth Walk the Harbour Bridge



Indonesian Youth in Wendy's Secret Garden

Indonesia by the Harbour

The Indonesian Consulate surprised us with an end-of-year bash at the International Shipping Terminal at Circular Quay which was an excellent location to showcase what Indonesia is all about. Song, dances, musicians, traditional and new clothing fashion, food, videos and photography of spectacular Indonesian locations, non-stop entertainment from 11 am through to 10 pm on 25 November. AIA's committee member, Sisca Haskew performed one of her traditional dances which was mesmerising.

The passing public was more than curious, and many stopped in to look at this spectacle, many of them amazed to learn that what they were watching was Indonesian. The AIA becaks were a hit and were a great contrast with the two Ferraris parked alongside.

In my opinion, this was one of the best events which would have had a positive impact on the Australian public, showing Indonesia in a way they could not imagine. Well done Pak Vedi.



AIA Becak with Ferrari Nearby



Large Crowd Attracted to Indonesian by the Harbour



Sisca Haskew

The Indonesian Consulate's "Indonesia by the Harbour" event on 25 November at Circular Quay showcased Indonesia's rich culture with music, dance, fashion, food, and stunning visuals, drawing a curious public and featuring AIA committee member Sisca Haskew's traditional dance, while the AIA becaks attracted attention alongside luxury Ferraris, making it one of the most impactful cultural showcases of the year.

Indonesian Artworks

To finish off a great year for AIA, we were contacted by the National Art Gallery in early December and asked if we would accept 35 pieces of Indonesian artwork which had been deaccessioned from the collection of the National Gallery of Australia. Of course, AIA was pleased to accept the artwork and now have it in storage until we determine a suitable home for these items to be displayed.



54460
Bali, Indonesia
Hanging [Korpri] depicting *The Churning of the Milky Ocean* early 20th century
cotton cloth, paint/tempera
143.0 x 176.2 cm



1184
Bali, Indonesia
Female figure 20th century
wood
57.0 x 16.3 cm



156455
Bali, Indonesia
Composite beast resembling a dragon 1990s
wood
36.0 x 95.0 cm

Three of the 35 Pieces of Indonesian Artwork

In December, AIA was honored to accept 35 pieces of Indonesian artwork deaccessioned from the National Gallery of Australia, which are now in storage pending determination of a suitable display location.

Upcoming Events Newsletter

The Upcoming Events Newsletter is published weekly and distributed to over 1,000 people. As the name indicates, the newsletter provides information on Indonesian related events over the next few months. Many thanks to Eric de Haas our Events Coordinator for all his work in gathering the information and publishing the newsletter each week.

Zoom Cocktails

During 2023 AIA held the following 9 sessions.

Date	Speaker	Topic
4 March	Nick Hughes	Gunung Tambora, the largest recorded volcanic eruption.
1 April	John McGlynn	"Indonesia Through A Literary Lens" – the role and activities of the Lontar Foundation in Jakarta.
6 May	Yuli Ismartono	Women in Indonesian Media: Trials & Tribulations
3 June	Ian Burnet	Batavia and the Dutch Golden Age
1 July	Elizabeth McClean	DJAMU – Social Enterprise in Jakarta - Reimagining work with informal waste workers in Jakarta & developing products made from up-cycled plastic waste.
5 August	Toni Pollard	Ubud Writers Festival
2 September	Jane Lydon	Macassans -Australian histories
7 October	George Quinn	New water in an old well: The revival of creative writing in Javanese
4 November	Doug Ramage	Upcoming Indonesian Elections – 2024

AIA Zoom Cocktails

Started when we were all locked down during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zoom cocktails continue to prove to be popular amongst AIA members. The quality of the presentations and the variety of topics are most entertaining, and I wish to thank both Eric de Haas and Isla Winarto who have been responsible for finding our cocktail Zoom speakers. If you haven't attended one, you should give it a try as you don't know what you are missing out on.

Pat Hanna
President

The weekly Upcoming Events Newsletter, reaching over 1,000 recipients, provides information on Indonesian-related events, thanks to the efforts of Events Coordinator Eric de Haas, while the ongoing AIA Zoom Cocktails, initiated during the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to engage members with entertaining presentations and diverse topics, organized by Eric de Haas and Isla Winarto.

Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Financial Report is available to AIA members upon request.

Education Subcommittee Report

2023 has been a busy year for promoting Bahasa Indonesia in NSW schools. Despite efforts, HSC student numbers have declined. However, we are working on new strategies with the Indonesian Consulate and Embassy.

Lottie Maramis Prizes for 2023 HSC Bahasa Indonesia

Winners include:

Ryde Secondary College	Mahesh Maniam	1st Indonesian Continuers
Hunter School of Performing Arts	Melati Indah Siswoyo	1st Indonesian Beginners
Macarthur Anglican	Justine Fowler	1st Indonesian Extension
Conservatorium High School	Jacob McCormick	1st Indonesian and Literature



Indonesian Continuers – Mahesh Maniam of Ryde Secondary College.

School Visits

AIA visited several schools, organising activities such as batik making, angklung, martial arts, and presentations on the value of learning Bahasa Indonesia.

Indonesia in Action Day – AIYA

AIA collaborated with AIYA to organise "Indonesia in Action," bringing 120 students and teachers to Sydney University for a day of Indonesian cultural activities.

NSW Education Dept Roundtable

AIA participated in discussions on languages taught in NSW schools. The roundtable highlighted the decline in student numbers for all languages, and the limitations faced by the Education Department in addressing the issue.

School of Languages

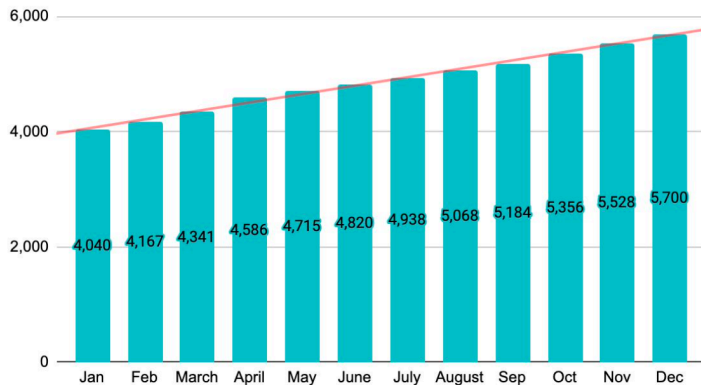
AIA and the Indonesian Consulate discussed the possibility of spreading Indonesian studies through online classes offered by the NSW School of Languages.

Pat Hanna
Education Subcommittee

In 2023, AIA actively promoted Bahasa Indonesia in NSW schools through school visits, cultural activities, and collaboration with AIYA on "Indonesia in Action Day," while also engaging in discussions with the Indonesian Consulate, Embassy, and the NSW Education Department to address the decline in student numbers for Indonesian studies and explore new strategies, including online classes through the NSW School of Languages.

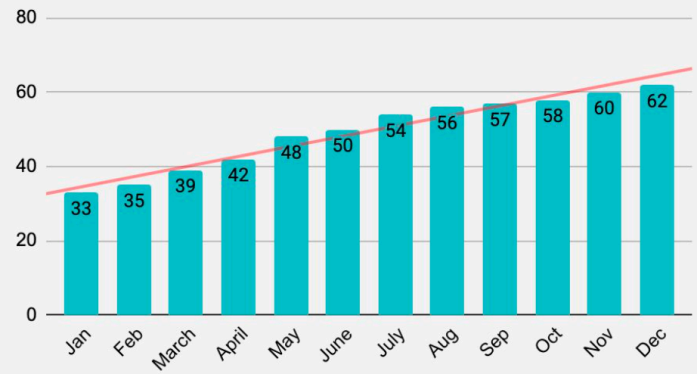
Communications and Social Media Subcommittee Report

AIA Facebook Members 2023



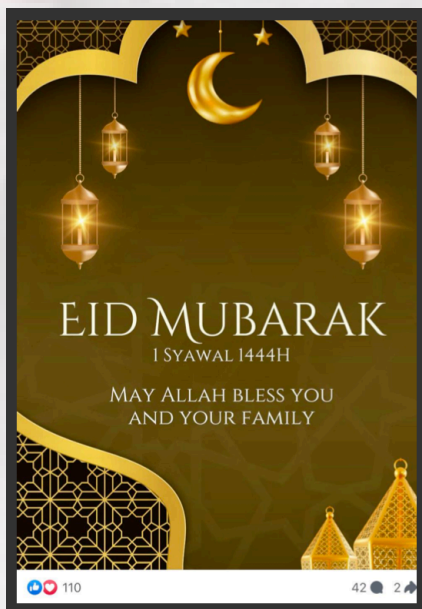
AIA Facebook members increased from 4,040 in Jan to 5,700 in Dec (14%).

AIA LinkedIn Members 2023



AIA LinkedIn members increased from 33 in Jan to 62 in Dec (188%).

The most engaged Facebook post



Eid Mubarak greeting received 110 reactions



AIA Autumn Dinner flyer received 92 reactions



Indonesia Independence Festival flyer received 65 reactions

Social media and website promotion

I am responsible for creating flyers for AIA events, managing AIA's social media presence on platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn, and serving as the administrator for the AIA website to ensure that content related to AIA news and events is accurately maintained and updated. Additionally, I oversee the creation of the AIA annual report, ensuring it reflects the organization's achievements and activities throughout the year.

How do people find us?

Top search queries for your site	
1.	australia indonesia association
2.	indonesian community in sydney
3.	indonesian community in australia
4.	indonesian society
5.	indonesia community
6.	indonesian community in melbourne
7.	indonesian companies in australia



Romie Sofiati
AIA Vice President and
Communications and Social Media
Subcommittee

In 2023, Sofie managed AIA's social media presence on Facebook and LinkedIn, created promotional flyers for events, administered the AIA website to ensure accurate updates, and oversaw the creation of the annual report to highlight the organization's achievements and activities.

History Subcommittee

The AIA History Subcommittee thanks the committee for its continued support. Recognising the Australia-Indonesia natural and cultural heritage is crucial to our mission.

Cowra International Festival

In March, a group of AIA members participated in the Cowra International Festival, where Indonesia was the featured nation. Our parade float, featuring becaks and Indonesian students in traditional dress, won the Most Outstanding Display award.



AIA received the certificate of achievement in the Cowra Festival 2023

Black Armada Plaque

On 11 October a plaque commemorating the Black Armada was unveiled at the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM). The project, in collaboration with the Australian Maritime Union, took five years to complete due to various delays. The plaque proudly mentions AIA's contribution to the historical event.

Indonesian Flag Raising Ceremony

The subcommittee supported the Indonesian Flag Raising Ceremony at the ANMM on 17 August. The event included a screening of "Indonesia Calling" and talks on the Black Armada, attended by around 200 people.

Other Activities

- Organised a history walk in Woolloomooloo.
- Displayed becaks at the Indonesia Bazaar, raising \$100 for AIA.

Neil Smith

In 2023, the AIA History Subcommittee contributed to key cultural initiatives, including participating in the Cowra International Festival, where Indonesia was the featured nation, unveiling the Black Armada plaque at the Australian National Maritime Museum, supporting the Indonesian Flag Raising Ceremony, organizing a history walk in Woolloomooloo, and displaying becaks at the Indonesia Bazaar to raise funds for AIA.

AIA Jakarta-Based Report

One of the main aims of the role of AIA's Vice President and Jakarta-based member has been to promote the background, mission, and vision of AIA NSW, and in so doing, attract more people from overseas to join this historical organisation.

We have continued to spread awareness about the activities of AIA NSW and the benefits of becoming an overseas member. This has been a busy year for me as I attempt to fulfil this role.

Recruitment of New Members Overseas

In 2023, six new members joined AIA NSW in Indonesia. This brings the total number of AIA members in Indonesia to 22. There are also three overseas members from other countries including Hong Kong, Ireland, and the UK. The members consist of descendants of Indonesian KPM officers, Australian alumni, long-term expatriates, and people who are passionate about fostering the bilateral relations between Indonesia and Australia.

One of the Indonesian members made a contribution of over \$700 to AIA NSW for which we are very grateful.

This year Koes Marihati, an Indonesia-based member of AIA, was named the 2023 Alumni of the Year by the Australian government.

In 2023, AIA's Vice President, based in Jakarta, focused on promoting the organization's mission and increasing overseas membership, successfully recruiting six new members in Indonesia and three more from Hong Kong, Ireland, and the UK, while hosting six networking luncheons and eight afternoon tea meetings, including a cultural program for the visit of the Governor of New South Wales, Margaret Beazley.

Networking Events in Jakarta

I hosted six networking luncheons and eight afternoon tea meetings for AIA members and guests in Jakarta. A highlight of the year was organising a cultural program for the visit of Her Excellency, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales, with the support of the Australian Embassy, the Indonesian Heritage Society, and the National Museum. Other events included:

Embassy Relations

- Collaborations with the Australian Embassy: Discussed with the Public Diplomacy Unit a proposal for the Australian government to promote books on Indonesians in Australia in the 1940s, and to translate some of these books into Bahasa Indonesia.
- 75th Anniversary of Bilateral Relations: Offered to be involved in the events in 2024 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Australia-Indonesia bilateral relations.
- Annual AIA Luncheon at the Australian Ambassador's Residence in Jakarta with Ambassador Penny Williams together with 18 AIA members.
- Liaison with the Australian Embassy: Worked closely to maintain the graves of Molly and Mohamad Bondan and organise an annual commemoration at their gravesites.

In 2023, AIA hosted six networking luncheons and eight afternoon tea meetings in Jakarta, including a cultural program for the visit of the Governor of New South Wales, Margaret Beazley, and collaborated with the Australian Embassy on initiatives like promoting books about Indonesians in Australia and participating in the 75th anniversary of Australia-Indonesia relations, while also organizing an annual luncheon at the Australian Ambassador's residence and maintaining the graves of Molly and Mohamad Bondan.

Event Participation

- **Receptions:** Attended a reception on behalf of the AIA for the WA visiting Premier, Roger Cook.
- **Fashion Parade:** Attended the Australian Embassy reception and fashion parade in honour of some Australian First Nation designers, during Jakarta Fashion Week.
- **ANZAC Dawn Service:** Participated in the ANZAC dawn service at the Menteng Pulo Commonwealth War Cemetery where I placed a wreath on the cenotaph, on behalf of the AIA.
- **YouTube Interview:** Was interviewed for a YouTube segment on the kebaya top to be listed by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage of Southeast Asia.
- **Zoom Cocktails:** Identified guest speakers for AIA's monthly Zoom Cocktails.
- **Other Representation in Indonesia:** Represented AIA at the Australian Ambassador's reception at the Ubud Writers' Festival in Bali, the 60th anniversary of the 1963 cohort of Indonesian Colombo Plan students to Australia, as well as a South Jakarta Community Event.
- **Other Representation in Australia:** Attended the AIA Annual Dinner in Sydney, Represented the AIA at the NAILA Awards in Sydney, Purchased over 100 Indonesian handicrafts for the AIA to distribute during NSW school visits.

In 2023, AIA was actively represented at various events, including a reception for WA Premier Roger Cook, a fashion parade during Jakarta Fashion Week, the ANZAC dawn service in Jakarta, and a YouTube interview on the kebaya's UNESCO listing; additional representations included attending the Ubud Writers' Festival, the 60th anniversary of Indonesian Colombo Plan students, and AIA's Annual Dinner and NAILA Awards in Sydney, while also supporting NSW school visits by acquiring over 100 Indonesian handicrafts.

Community Engagements

Australia Day Celebration: Arranged an Australia Day celebration at the Australia New Zealand Association (ANZA) in Jakarta.

Expats Monthly Get together: Arranged attendance at and talks by AIA members.

Black Armada Exhibition: Liaised with the Indonesia Diaspora Network of Victoria to organise a Black Armada Exhibition in Jakarta.

Communications

I produced the first AIA e-newsletter for overseas members. Distributed to all overseas-based members, it contained information on membership, AIA activities, Annual Report 2022, the AIA Awards, and activities being planned.

Isla Winarto

Vice President and Jakarta-based Representative

In 2023, AIA's Vice President in Jakarta focused on promoting the organization's mission and expanding overseas membership, successfully recruiting new members in Indonesia and other countries, hosting networking events, collaborating with the Australian Embassy on cultural and diplomatic initiatives, organizing community engagements like Australia Day and the Black Armada Exhibition, and representing AIA at various events in both Indonesia and Australia.

Website: [www.https://australia-indonesia-association.com/](https://australia-indonesia-association.com/)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52751124027/>
Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aiansw/?viewAsMember=true>



The AIA NSW annual report 2023 is designed by Romie Sofiati