



Australia Indonesia Association (ACT) Inc.
PO Box 7252 Duffy ACT 2611

56th Annual President's Report 2020-2021

This is 56th year in the ACT that AIA has been successful in achieving our aim:

To promote friendship and understanding between the people of Australia and the people of Indonesia

This AIA (ACT) financial year has been another challenging 12 months due to the COVID-19 virus causing lockdowns and forcing the cancellation of many functions. Despite these challenges AIA has again continued successfully due to the wonderful commitment and flexibility of the committee. The Indonesian Embassy has again provided greatly appreciated support. We are indebted to Bapak Kristiarto Legowo and all the Indonesian Embassy staff members who are always extremely helpful and kindly support AIA with facilities for committee meetings, functions, language classes and other support in many ways.

For the AIA (ACT) financial year 2020-2021 the financial membership was:

- ✓ Life Members: 2 (Yetty Daly and Bill Rhemrev)
- ✓ Single Memberships paid: 70
- ✓ Family Memberships paid: 21
- ✓ Student Membership paid: 6
- ✓ Thus, a total adult membership, including Embassy corporate staff and families, of approximately 160.

ACTIVITIES: Over the last year AIA (ACT) conducted and participated in a reduced number of activities due to COVID. The major activities since the 55th AGM were:

- ✓ AIA held a very enjoyable 2020 End of Year Function in a private room at the Ginseng Restaurant, within the Hellenic Club Woden, on 6 December 2020.
- ✓ AIA held an Australia Day Celebration at Ibu Yetty's home on 26 January 2021 which included toasts to both nations and singing of both national anthems.
- ✓ AIA held a very successful Film Night in Balai Kartini with 41 members attending on 8 April 2021.
- ✓ AIA held a very much enjoyed visit to Mogo Wildlife Park and shared lunch on Broulee Beach on 29 May 2021.
- ✓ Almost all the AIA Committee and other AIA members attended the very sad occasion of the Funeral of Ling Matsay on 18 June 2021 and we again offer our sincere condolences to Jack Matsay.

Sadly, after a lot of preparation and planning the 2021 AIA Winter Dinner (WD21) had to be cancelled when the ACT went into lockdown on 12 August 2021, just 9 days before our dinner planned for 21 August 2021. We extend a very big thank you to all who worked so hard to plan and prepare for WD21. Without the COVID-19 lockdown WD21 would have been a great success and we were looking to set a new record with almost 150 attending. Thanks very much to the preparation and commitment of the performance teams of Javanese Gamelan led by Pak Gede, Betawi and Riau dance groups led by Ibu Ifa, the band for the night led by Pak Inoeg, the famous singing group led by Ibu Iis and all the committee, Language teachers and U3A who have put so much work into preparing for WD21. Thanks to HE Bapak Kristiarto Legowo who would have been our Guest Speaker and this would have also been AIAs farewell dinner before his return to Indonesia. Thanks also to Indo Café and Ibu Yetty for the great Raffle prize and to Ibu Iis Dunbar who would have sung a song to raise funds to help COVID victims in Indonesia. The AIA Committee are hopeful we will be able to hold a similar dinner, where we can enjoy all the wonderful performances and events and a joyous dinner together, when the COVID controls allow. We also had to cancel other events, including our Trivia Night last November, due to COVID restrictions.

INDONESIAN LANGUAGE: Phil Domaschenz has again brilliantly continued his dedicated and very professional organising of the Indonesian Language Training. Fortunately, AIA elected to continue language classes using Zoom and that has allowed Classes to proceed regardless of COVID restrictions. The skills and commitment of the native speaking teachers continues to ensure the success of the classes and again this year the teachers have done a wonderful job. During the year we have had four semesters with six classes of about 6-12 students per class of 8 weeks per semester. We provided classes at Advanced, Intermediate, Continuing Beginners and three Beginners levels. The use of Zoom and the low cost for student participation has also greatly contributed to the success of classes, which peaked at 61 students per semester.

CHARITIES: AIA has continued providing assistance to help the disadvantaged in Indonesia and assist with their education throughout the year. The main efforts have been:

- ✓ **SMP2 PLAYEN** – For the last 20 years AIA has provided funding to support the education of disadvantaged students at SMP2 Playen in Kabupaten Gunung Kidul in Provinsi Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta. For the last four years AIA has provided AUD1,500 per annum. I last visited SMP2 Playen in 2019 and was thrilled to again see how much our contribution assists disadvantaged children, how well the school manages the AIA funding and the appreciation of the recipients.
- ✓ **NTA Training of Teachers Program** – AIA provided AUD3,000 to the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA) to support training of local teachers. This assistance is critical as the poor rural schools in the Nusa Tenggara area struggle to attract fully qualified teachers and rely to a large extent on *guru honor* (teachers with a basic school education usually sourced from local communities). The training program provides some basic exposure for these teachers to teaching techniques and the school curriculum.
- ✓ **COVID-19 Support in Sulawesi** – AIA contributed AUD150.00 of AUD1,000 provided by AIA members to a charity in Sulawesi to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

SUPPORT TO INDONESIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING AT ANU: For a second year AIA has not been successful in our requests to ANU to provide the details of the student who topped the third year Indonesian, to present them with a \$500 prize for use to further their Indonesian studies and involvement with Indonesia. We are still pursuing this with higher level ANU officials.

USING ONLINE BOOKING: AIA has continued the use of Trybooking for Pay online, Pay at the location and Free events (no Trybooking fee). This has been an excellent aid to managing membership, Indonesian Language class bookings, and other events. For a relatively small fee Trybooking collects all the details from the registering participants and those records enable better management of events and easier accounting.

WEB SITE: We have again been fortunate to have Damon Searle and Shinta Benilda maintain the AIA (ACT) website. aia-act.org.au provides important information for members and the public and linking to events and language training for payments. We continue to look for opportunities to provide more AIA stories and photographs to display on our site and thank Damon and Shinta for their efforts.

FAREWELL TO A GREAT SUPPORTER: H.E. Bapak Kristiarto Legowo has been a wonderful supporter of AIA. As he is about to leave Australia to return to Indonesia, I would like to make a special mention of the interest and support Bapak Kris have given to the history and efforts of AIA since its' inception and the wonderful support he and his lovely wife Ibu Ceacelia have provided to AIA throughout his Ambassadorship. It is indeed very sad that our plans to farewell Bapak Kris at the 2021 AIA Winter Dinner were stopped by the COVID Lockdown. We truly wish Bapak Kris and Ibu Ceacelia all the very best for the future.

This is the 10th year I have had the honour of being President and I greatly appreciate the willing and eager support and dedicated efforts of all Committee Members. I thank all the AIA committee members who have done a wonderful job over the last year, and many of them for a very long time. Special thanks to Vice Presidents Ibu Yetty Daly, Phil Domaschenz, Secretary Bill Rhemrev and Treasurer Karim Najjarine who all work so hard for AIA. It was good to welcome Jack Matsay back onto the Committee. I encourage our younger members to join our Committee to ensure the continuity of AIA and provide new ideas and energy.



Les Boag President